

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOLUME XXXIX

April-July 1955

NUMBERS 2-3



CENTRAL PARK WEST AND 77TH STREET
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FENWICK BEEKMAN, M.D., *President*

LEROY E. KIMBALL	<i>First Vice-President</i>
LOUIS C. WILLS	<i>Second Vice-President</i>
FORSYTH WICKES	<i>Third Vice-President</i>
IRVING S. OLDS	<i>Fourth Vice-President</i>
ARCHER M. HUNTINGTON	<i>Foreign Corresponding Secretary</i>
WILLIAM T. VAN ALSTYNE	<i>Domestic Corresponding Secretary</i>
DE WITT M. LOCKMAN	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
THOMAS W. STREETER	<i>Treasurer</i>

Term Ending 1955

Charles E. Dunlap
Lewis Gouverneur Morris
C. Otto v. Kienbusch

Term Ending 1956

John V. Irwin
Arthur H. Merritt, D.D.S.
Edmund Astley Prentis

Term Ending 1957

Henry O. Havemeyer
Frederick B. Adams, Jr.
Hall Park McCullough

Term Ending 1958

John E. Parsons

Rodney W. Williams

R. McAllister Lloyd

COMMITTEES

On Building

Henry O. Havemeyer
Charles E. Dunlap
Edmund Astley Prentis

On Law

Louis C. Wills
Forsyth Wickes
Irving S. Olds

On Lectures

Frederick B. Adams, Jr.
Lewis Gouverneur Morris
John V. Irwin

On Library

LeRoy E. Kimball
Thomas W. Streeter
Frederick B. Adams, Jr.
R. McAllister Lloyd

On Membership

John V. Irwin
William T. Van Alstyne

On Nominations

Henry O. Havemeyer
Charles E. Dunlap
John E. Parsons

On Fine Arts

Forsyth Wickes
DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A.
Henry O. Havemeyer
Hall Park McCullough
Charles E. Dunlap

On Museum

Arthur H. Merritt, D.D.S.
Archer M. Huntington
Lewis Gouverneur Morris
John E. Parsons
C. Otto v. Kienbusch

On Finance

Thomas W. Streeter
LeRoy E. Kimball
William T. Van Alstyne
Forsyth Wickes
Rodney W. Williams

On Publications

LeRoy E. Kimball
Thomas W. Streeter
Arthur H. Merritt, D.D.S.

Ex-Officio, All Committees

Dr. Beekman (President)
Mr. Streeter (Treasurer)
Mr. Vail (Secretary to the Board)

DIRECTOR R. W. G. VAIL

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Librarian	RICHARD J. KOKE
Curator of the Museum	CHARLES E. BAKER
Editor	FRANCIS W. BILODEAU
Supervisor of Education	MERYLE R. EVANS
Supervisor of Public Relations	GARRETT H. WINTER
Superintendent of Buildings	

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

VOLUME XXXIX

APRIL-JULY 1955

NUMBERS 2-3

CHARLES E. BAKER, *Editor*

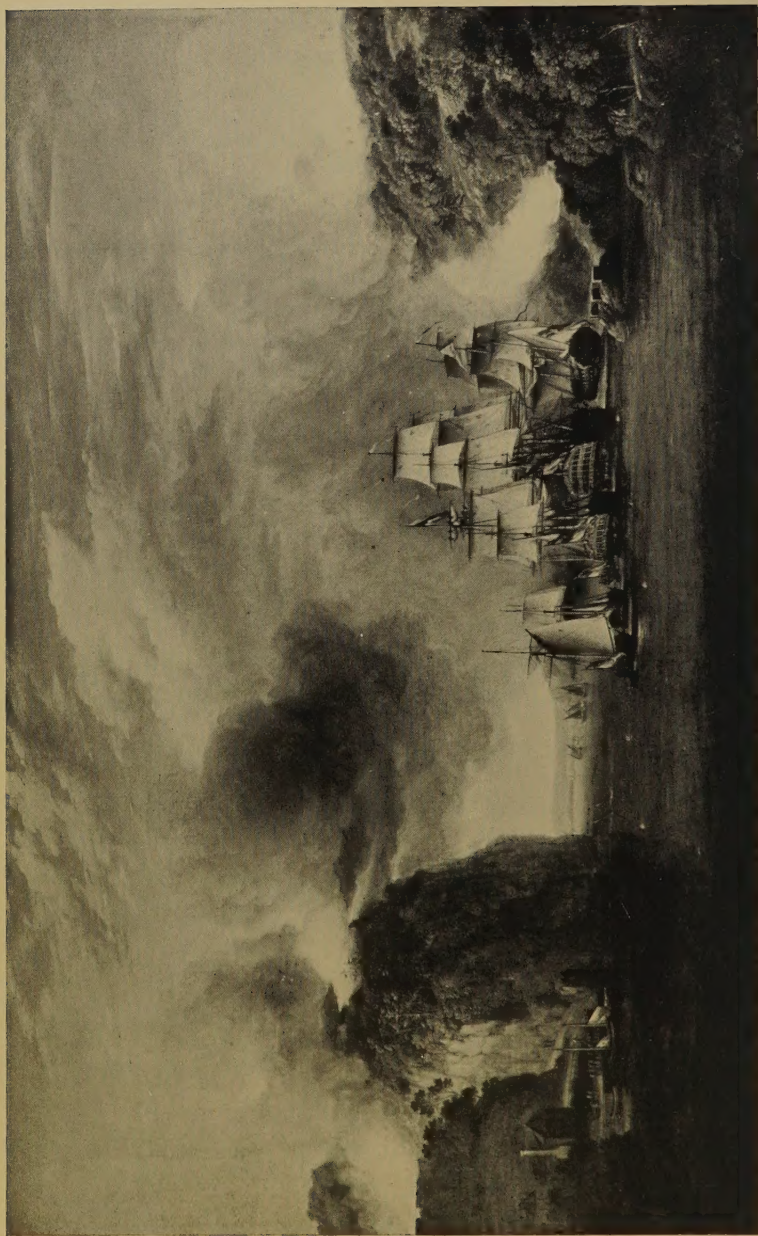
DAVID H. WALLACE, *Assistant Editor*

CONTENTS

A British Counterfeiting Press in New York Harbor, 1776	KENNETH SCOTT	117
Ninety More Years of the Society's History	R. W. G. VAIL	121
The Society Comes of Age		122
The Society Reaches Maturity		181
Erratum		327
Book Reviews and Notices:		
Cowdrey, <i>American Academy of Fine Arts and American Art-Union, 1816-1852</i>	GEORGE C. GROCE	328
Clark, <i>The First Saratoga</i>	IRVING S. OLDS	330
Van Deusen, <i>Horace Greeley</i>	CHARLES A. JOHNSON	331
Hammond, <i>A Commoner's Judge</i>	ROSALIE FELLOWS BAILEY	332
Hansen, <i>Scarsdale</i>	LOCKWOOD BARR	336
Lilly, <i>Walam Olum or Red Score</i>	WILLIAM N. FENTON	338
Larkin, <i>Samuel F. B. Morse</i>	DAVID H. WALLACE	341
White, ed., <i>Philadelphia Architecture</i>	THEODORE BOLTON	342
Schachner, <i>The Founding Fathers</i>	DAVID LEE STERLING	345
Moyne, ed., <i>Grispenberg's . . . Travel in the U.S. (1888)</i>		346
Beebe, <i>Unseen Life of New York</i>	DAVID H. WALLACE	347
Catalogue . . . of Ship Models	RICHARD J. KOKE	347
Activities of the Society		348
Recent Accessions		349
A Gift of Rare Newspapers	LOUIS H. FOX	351
Books for Sale by the Society	<i>Inside back cover</i>	



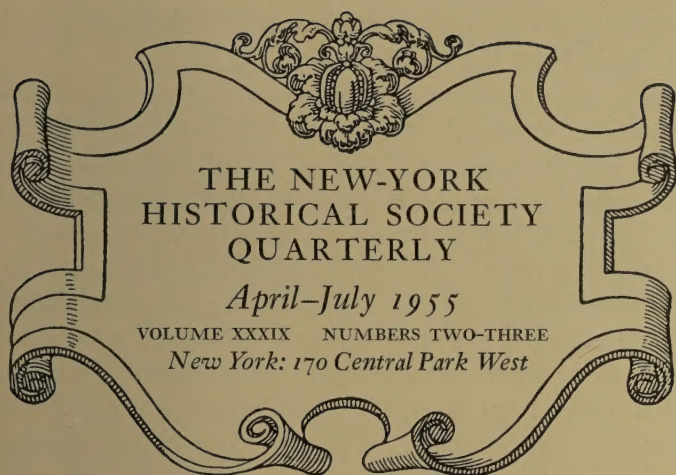
The New-York Historical Society Quarterly is published in January, April, July and October by The New-York Historical Society at 170 Central Park West, New York 14, N.Y. The Society does not assume responsibility for statements made by contributors. Yearly subscriptions are \$3.00; individual copies, 75 cents. Entered at the New York Post Office as second-class matter.



H.M.S. "PHOENIX" (THE SHIP FARTHEST RIGHT) WHERE AMERICAN CURRENCY WAS COUNTERFEITED IN 1776

Shown here under Ft. Washington with sister vessels forcing the Hudson River Passage, October 9, 1776

Oil Painting by William Joy (1803-1857) after the original by Dominique Serres (1722-1793)



A BRITISH COUNTERFEITING PRESS IN NEW YORK HARBOR, 1776

by KENNETH SCOTT*

IT IS KNOWN that during the Revolution the British counterfeited Continental currency, which was then distributed by Tory agents in an attempt to ruin the money of Congress. All available evidence points to New York City as the chief source of supply¹ but hitherto it has not been determined where the false notes were actually printed.² George Washington wrote in December 1779 that a "confidential correspondent in New York . . . had taken much but fruitless pains to detect the [persons] concerned."³ One place in New York where bogus money was

* Professor Scott is the author of *Counterfeiting in Colonial New York* (1953) and of articles and forthcoming books on counterfeiting in other colonies.

¹ The material bearing on the subject is to be found in Kenneth Scott, "New Hampshire Tory Counterfeiters Operating from New York City," *NYHS Quarterly*, January 1950, pp. 31-57.

² Some, at least, must have been made in England, since a shipload of counterfeits en route to America was captured by a privateer. See Henry Phillips, *Continental Paper Currency* (Roxbury, Mass.: W. Elliott Woodward, 1866), 71.

³ Worthington Chauncey Ford, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1890), VIII, 129.

struck off is here revealed to have been H.M.S. *Phoenix* while it was lying in New York Harbor in 1776.

This revelation is contained in a record of legal proceedings instituted in Connecticut against two Tories of Ridgefield: George and John Folliott, sons of Joseph and Anna Tengage Folliott. At the time of the prosecutions the younger brother, John, born at Ridgefield August 22, 1754, was barely of age, while George, born April 30, 1732, was a family man (married to Thankfull Burt) and a veteran of the French and Indian War in which he served as a sergeant in the company commanded by Captain Perez Fitch.⁴ The brothers were separately indicted at the February, 1776, term of the Superior Court of Fairfield County for having conspired to pass counterfeits received at New York and for related crimes.⁵ These indictments, couched in almost identical terms, charged among other things⁶ that on January 6, 1776, the Folliott brothers agreed to go together to New York and thence aboard H.M.S. *Phoenix*, a ship "of forty guns,"⁷ lying in New York Harbor, and that their criminal purpose in doing so was:

⁴ Vital Records of Ridgefield (in the office of the Town Clerk of Ridgefield, Conn.), I, 72; Land Records of Ridgefield, Vol. 1, pp. 245, 252; George L. Rockwell, *The History of Ridgefield, Connecticut* (Ridgefield: Privately printed by the author, 1927), 88.

George Folliott is not to be confused with another Tory of the same name who was a native of Ireland, resided in New York City, was an extremely wealthy merchant, was elected a delegate to the Provincial Congress of New York in 1775 and the Committee of One Hundred for the City and County of New York, but refused to serve on either and fled to England. See Frederic Gregory Mather, *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut* (Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., 1913), 711 and 1049; American Loyalists, Audit Office Transcripts, Vol. 45, manuscript copy in the New York Public Library; Lorenzo Sabine, *The American Loyalists* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1847), 290.

⁵ Superior Court Files (in the Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.), Fairfield County, 1770-1779, February Term, 1776. This document and the other unpublished material from the Connecticut State Library are used with the kind permission of Mr. James Brewster, State Librarian.

⁶ For instance, the indictments (see note 5, above) charged that on or about December 20, 1775, the brothers went on board H.M.S. *Asia*, a man of war of 44 guns under the command of Captain George Vandeput, then lying in the Harbor of New York; tarried there for four days; received provisions by the captain's order; informed Vandeput of the "State, Circumstances & Condition" of Ridgefield; and gave him the names of all the inhabitants of that town who were Tories and all those who were Whigs.

⁷ H.M.S. *Phoenix*, commanded by Hyde Parker, actually had 44 guns. See Rear-Admiral W. M. James, *The British Navy in Adversity* (London: Longmans, Green

. . . to receive and take from on Board said Ship a large Quantity of Counterfeited Bills of Credit, counterfeited and falsely made on Board of said Ship called the Phoenix into the Resemblance and Imitation of the true Bills of Credit of the said united Colonies made and emitted by Order of the Honourable the Continental Congress of the said united Colonies, which the said George and John agreed to do with the Design to utter, pass and put of[f] said false and Counterfeited Bills of Credit to and among the Inhabitants of the said united Colonies . . . in Order to deceive and abuse said Inhabitants and to hurt and ruin the Credit and Currency of the true Bills of Credit aforesaid among the People all which is a great and high handed Misdemeanour and is against Law and Right and contrary to the Form, Force and Effect of the Statute Law of this Colony entitled an Act restraining and punishing Persons who are inimical to the Liberties of this and the Rest of the united Colonies. . . .⁸

The grand jury returned both indictments *billa vera*. John was arraigned, pleaded not guilty, and came to trial immediately; but it seems that the principal witnesses against him could not be brought in to testify, so he was found not guilty.⁹ After his acquittal he seems to have avoided further trouble and to have lived quietly at Ridgefield at least until 1794 when his name passes from the records there.¹⁰

George also pleaded not guilty, but his case was continued to the following August term, apparently in order to give the County Attorney time to find the missing witnesses. In August a second continuation to the spring term of 1777 was allowed for the same reason, but when that term was called the Prosecutor had still failed to apprehend his witnesses (no doubt because they were safely within the British lines in New York), and the Court refused to grant him a further continuance. Under these circum-

and Co., Ltd., 1926), 430. For an account of the *Phoenix's* participation in "Forcing the Hudson River Passage, October 9, 1776," see Richard J. Koke's article of that title in *NYHS Quarterly*, October 1952, pp. 459-466.

⁸ See note 5, above.

⁹ Superior Court Files, Fairfield County, February Term, 1776, John Folliott's indictment; Superior Court Records, Vol. 18 (1772-1777), Fairfield County, February Term, 1776.

¹⁰ It is recorded that land was deeded to John Folliott by his father Joseph in 1787 and 1792, by Hannah Folliott in 1792, by Nathan Dauchy in 1790, by Ezekiel Watson and Benjamin Smith in 1791, by Peter Waddy in 1792; and that in 1794 he sold some 55 acres of land with a dwelling house and barn to Ichabod Wheeler and his wife Katherine, so possibly John left the town in 1794. In any event there is no further record of him there. See Land Records of Ridgefield, Vol. 7, pp. 23, 108, 141, 171, and Vol. 8, pp. 20, 25, 31.

stances he could hardly do other than enter a *nolle prosequi* on the record, which he did in the words following:¹¹

Fairfield Adj^d: Sup^r Court April 1777

As on enquiry I find that the Witnesses to Support this Indictment are not to be had and the Court haveing determined that the Cause shall not be continued I am obliged to enter that I will no further prosecute this Suit

[Signed:] G[OLD] S[ELLECK] SILLIMAN Att^y

Although George accordingly escaped trial on this charge, he did spend time in prison. Before mid-December, 1776, he had been taken to the Fairfield jail by Comfort and Noah Hoyt on "a Warrant from the Committee of this State for removing dangerous Persons." The following year "Captain of the Guard" David Hoyt certified that the same Comfort and Noah had removed George Folliott back to the Ridgefield jail.¹² George's name later appears on a list of persons who suffered loss when the King's troops passed through Ridgefield and whose characters were inimical to the liberties of the United States of America.¹³ He was committed to the Hartford jail "as a Tory" but was finally liberated upon his paying all costs and taking the oath of fidelity.¹⁴

Although John Folliott was acquitted of the charge of conspiring to pass counterfeits and his brother George escaped trial because "the Witnesses to Support the Indictment are not to be had," the records of their cases remain important as containing the only evidence so far brought to light of the precise location of a British counterfeiting press. They show that in January 1776 Continental currency was being "counterfeited and falsely made on Board of said Ship called the Phoenix," then and for a considerable time thereafter lying in the Harbor of New York.

¹¹ See notes 9 and 5, above. The Fairfield County Prosecutor was none other than General Gold Selleck Silliman whose services in defending the County against the ensuing British invasion are better known than his services as County Attorney.

¹² Connecticut Archives, Revolutionary War Series I, Vol. II, Part 2, doc. 396a (in the Connecticut State Library).

¹³ Connecticut Archives, Revolutionary War Series I, Vol. VIII, Part 2, docs. 191b and 390; and Revolutionary War Series III, Vol. I, doc. 63m; *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut* (Hartford: The State of Connecticut, 1948), 470.

¹⁴ George L. Rockwell, *op. cit.*, 127.

NINETY MORE YEARS OF THE SOCIETY'S HISTORY

by R. W. G. VAIL, *Director*

DURING the year 1954 the sesqui-centennial history of our Society began its appearance in the *Quarterly*.^{*} We are now completing the main text of the history in this double number so that our readers may have it available in serial form.

The present text continues the chronological narrative from the end of the Civil War to the present, telling of the achievements of our mature years.

For those who may wish the history in book form, it has been rearranged and reprinted, with 120 additional pages of forematter, appendices (documents, lists of officers and publications), and index, in a volume totalling 567 pages and 180 illustrations, bound in buckram, under the title: *Knickerbocker Birthday*.^{**} Copies may be secured from the Society at \$6.00, with a twenty percent discount to members and libraries.

^{*} Introduction: "Mr. Pintard Takes a Walk," January, pp. 5-29; "A Distinguished Company," April, pp. 139-167; "Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners," July, pp. 223-309; "The Society Grows Up," October, pp. 384-477.

^{**} EDITOR'S NOTE: Of this book Professor Allan Nevins wrote an evaluation (printed on its jacket) in which he said in part:

"It is a fascinating, an impressive, and in some respects a romantic story that Dr. Vail has told; and he has related it not only with erudition, but with narrative art and with graphic skill in depicting a long line of notable New Yorkers. The romance lies in the development of The New-York Historical Society from poverty and uncertainty into an institution of international renown, holding a wealth of historic and artistic treasures, and exercising an influence as wide as the world of learning. . . .

"Dr. Vail has with urbane felicity of style combined three diverse stands into a well-unified book. One is the story of the Society itself. . . . Another strand is the story of the city. The author has steeped himself in the lore of old New York, and many a forgotten element of the social and cultural life of the metropolis is brought out of the past and restored to full view. . . . Finally, the author has given a concise but effective account of national changes, and especially of the rise of historical pursuits and interests throughout the republic.

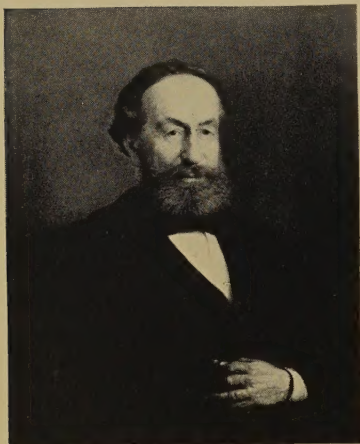
"This is a book which should interest all thoughtful Americans. The New-York Historical Society [and its two oldest sisters] . . . have exercised a strong and expanding influence on the minds not only of their own communities, but of the whole country. New Yorkers in particular may well take pride in this sesquicentennial narrative. . . . Our city government, our men of wealth, and our plain citizens generally can here learn how greatly this one institution has served New York, and how much it adorns the present-day metropolis."

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE



FREDERIC DE PEYSTER (1796-1882)

ELEVENTH PRESIDENT (1864-1866)



FREDERIC DE PEYSTER (1796-1882)

Eleventh and fifteenth President
of the Society, 1864-1866, 1873-1882

By George Gerhard, 1872

Gift of Frederic DePeyster, 1872

Orphan Asylum. He was a fluent and popular speaker and writer, a scholar and lover of art.

For most of his lifetime Frederic DePeyster was a loyal worker for our Society and, more than once, was chiefly instrumental in raising the money to extricate us from a dilemma or to promote the growth of the Society. He joined the Society as a life member in 1824; served as Corresponding Secretary, 1827-1829; Recording Secretary, 1829-1837, Corresponding Secretary, 1838-1843; Foreign Corresponding Secretary, 1843-1844; member of the Executive Committee, 1842-1866, 1873-1882; Second Vice-President, 1850-1863; President (first term), 1864-1866; and (second term), 1873 until his death on August 17, 1882, at the age of 86. He was a frequent speaker before the Society which published eight of his addresses.¹ The DePeyster family papers for three centuries and their splendid historical library eventually came to the Society. We also have oil portraits of Frederic DePeyster by Bissell and by Gerhard as well as seventeen of other members of his family.

DURING the three years of President DePeyster's first term of office the Civil War was concluded; Abraham Lincoln was reëlected President of the United States with Andrew Johnson as Vice-President; Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865, and died the next day, leaving Johnson as President; the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery was enacted and the unfortunate "carpetbagger" reconstruction policy began. In this period Nevada became a State and Montana a Territory; John D. Rockefeller and Samuel Andrews began refining oil at Cleveland; the Union Stock Yards were opened at Chicago; the bandit Jesse James flourished in the West and the Ku Klux Klan in the South. Another postwar depression hit the country in 1866 and, here in New York, the *Nation* was founded the previous year.

President Bradish having died in office and First Vice-President Thomas DeWitt having declined the nomination for the presidency, the nominating committee chose Second Vice-President DePeyster and in their report paid the following merited tribute to him: "Besides valuable donations of his own, he has given his aid effectually on more than one occasion, when the very existence of the Society was at stake, nor has he been wanting in securing the acquisition of the most brilliant of its collections."

And so Frederic DePeyster was unanimously elected the eleventh President of the Society. He missed but one regular meeting (because of the death of a favorite nephew) and one special meeting during his term of office. He was one of our most faithful and loyal friends.

During DePeyster's first brief term the Society continued to flourish. There were 14,600 visitors in 1865, including 4,200 guests at the lectures which, in addition to the monthly addresses before the members, included a series of three on Egypt and four by Professor John W. Draper on the "Historical Influence of Natural Causes on Nations." The subject of these lectures sounds to us a little on the dull side but they were so popular that

at least one of them was repeated by request. But much more exciting was the celebration, on October 12, 1864, of the "Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Conquest of New Netherland by the British" which took place at Cooper Institute with John Romeyn Brodhead as the appropriate speaker, after which the company adjourned for a party at the Society, as is more fully set forth in the chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners*.

St. Nicholas Day was celebrated as usual on December 6, 1864, with Professor Goldwin Smith of Oxford (and later of Cornell University) speaking on the history of his native university. On this occasion Librarian George Henry Moore, as the Minutes tell us, "further referred to the circumstances of the First Celebration of the Festival of St. Nicholas by the New-York Historical Society on the sixth of December, 1810, an account of which (prepared by John Pintard, its then Librarian and Recording Secretary) he had caused to be reproduced at this time [including woodcut portraits of John Pintard and Dr. Anderson engraved by the latter] for distribution to the members of the Society and their friends present. The engraving of St. Nicholas and the Dutch fireside on Santa Claus morning being engraved by the same engraver (Dr. Alexander Anderson, now in his ninetieth year) who executed the original fifty-four years ago." This charming four-page folio (verso of each page blank) is still one of our most delightful souvenirs. At the St. Nicholas party in 1939 the Anderson broadside was again reproduced together with the words and music of the good saint's song: *Sancte Claus goed heylig Man* in both Dutch and English.

The annual report for 1865 tells us that nearly 1,800 titles had been added to the library in addition to 52 volumes of newspapers, 49 manuscripts, 29 maps, 329 broadsides, and 123 museum objects. In January 1866, the local "Sons of Rhode Island" gave a fund of \$600, the income of which was to be used to buy books on that State. Though not large, this fund was most welcome and is still being used for its original purpose. During this period a drive to increase the Publication Fund raised the number

of shareholders to 740 and the fund to \$18,500, which was sufficient to begin publication, though the first volume of the Society's *Collections* in the Publication Fund Series did not appear until 1868.

There were many important additions to the library, including a rare collection of 250 books on Holland presented by General J. Watts DePeyster, son of our President; and an extremely important broadside: *The Conditions for New Planters*, a piece of promotion literature aimed to attract settlers to Governor Richard Nicolls' lands at Esopus, now Kingston, New York. It was probably printed at Boston by Marmaduke Johnson in 1665 and, if so, is the only surviving work printed by Boston's first printer.²

We were also given two paintings by Benjamin West: *Hector Parting with his Wife and Child at the Scaean Gate* and *Chryseis Returned to her Father Chryses*; five important drawings of buildings in old New York by Peter Grim; and the mutilated statue of Honorable William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, by Joseph Wilton of London, originally erected at the intersection of Wall and William Streets in 1770. Its head and arms were knocked off by the British soldiers in 1777 because he was a friend of the Americans; after many adventures, the truncated marble figure was purchased in 1864 by Simon F. Mackie (who gave it to the Society when he became a member a couple of months later), a merchant and insurance broker in New York who hailed from Bayonne, New Jersey. This was one of the first two outdoor statues in America, the other being the gilded lead equestrian statue of George III which stood at Bowling Green until the night after the Declaration of Independence was read to the troops and populace at New York, when it was pulled down and most of it run into bullets to help carry on the war. The four remaining pieces, together with the marble base, are also in our museum. The same year Trinity Church gave us the original tombstone of William Bradford, New York's first printer, it having been replaced by a new one.

The "first American collector and connoisseur"³ of European paintings was Thomas Jefferson Bryan (1803?-1870), son of a prominent and wealthy Philadelphia family, graduate of Harvard in the class of 1823, a student but not a practitioner of law, and a lifelong collector of European and, later, American art. After twenty years in Paris where he gathered the bulk of his collection, he returned to America and settled at 839 Broadway, corner of Thirteenth Street, where he had his living quarters as well as three spacious rooms where he hung his "Bryan Gallery of Christian Art" and, in 1853, issued a brief checklist which was followed the same year by an annotated catalogue of 230 paintings compiled by Richard Grant White.⁴ The collection grew until, by 1871, it numbered 381 canvases and one marble. "There he could be found, at almost any hour, seated in an old fashioned arm chair, in a picturesque robe-de-chambre and velvet cap, looking, with his snowy hair and florid complexion, like some old Venetian or Florentine, in his ancestral palace, surrounded with pictorial heirlooms."⁵ "A wealthy and eccentric Philadelphian, . . . he was possessed of superior graces of mind and person, but never married. . . . His long, snowy locks and beard, keen, frosty eyes and articulated facial outlines afforded all the elements for an ideal picture. . . . Mr. Bryan was fortunate enough to have been a resident of Paris during the memorable revolutions of 1830 and 1848, periods rich with spoil for the art collector."⁶ "His range in old pictorial art was enormous, his



THOMAS J. BRYAN (1803?-1870)

By William O. Stone, 1867

Painted from life for the Society

taste exquisite, his knowledge great, his enthusiasm unlimited, his generosity unbounded."³

The Bryan collection contains important works from the following schools: Byzantine, Early Italian, Twelfth Century, Ancient Venetian, Early Florentine, Spanish, German, French, English and American, the latter including portraits of the Peale family, Washington, Stuart, John Adams, Hamilton, Jefferson, Priestley, Madison, Decatur, Bainbridge, Perry, Cornplanter, and others, by such artists as West, Stuart, Sully, Rembrandt Peale, Charles Willson Peale, Savage, Bartoli, and Jarvis, many of them purchased at the sale of the Peale Museum in Philadelphia.

There was a modest sign at the street door announcing that the "Bryan Gallery of Christian Art" [*this was before the American portraits were added, though these later subjects undoubtedly considered themselves Christians*] was above-stairs and, having mounted the two flights, the visitor encountered a small boy who collected twenty-five cents admission charge and sold catalogues. His name was Thomas Nast but he shortly left to draw illustrations for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and his place was taken by another budding young artist, David Edward Cronin, whose delightful reminiscences give over twenty pages to Mr. Bryan and his establishment which included a French valet about 35 years old who took charge of his household and prepared his breakfasts (—he dined at the Union Club). This valet turned out to be a woman in disguise but Mr. Cronin hastily added that he was sure that Mr. Bryan never suspected her sex.⁷

When the Cooper Institute was opened in 1857 the Bryan Collection found a temporary home there for several years. "One day Mr. Bryan entered the gallery. The venerable Peter Cooper was exhibiting to a friend the beauties of a portrait of a burgermeister by Rembrandt [*which later turned out to be neither a burgermeister nor by Rembrandt*], and poking with the point of his umbrella at its merits. That was not only dangerous but

sacrilegious conduct in the eyes of Mr. Bryan, and there was at once a scene between the philanthropist and the connoisseur. The result was that the public exhibition of the paintings ended."^o

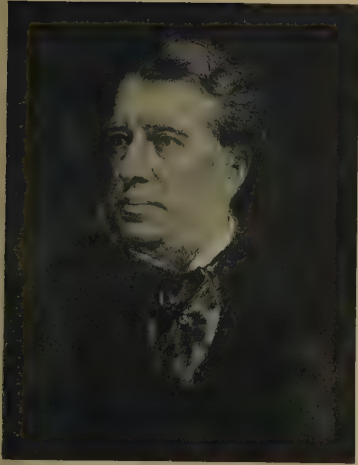
Having in the meantime disposed of a few paintings in Europe, Mr. Bryan most generously offered, on April 5, 1864, to give the entire collection to our Society provided that it "shall always remain in the possession of said Society either in its rooms . . . or in a building to be erected within the city." The offer was accepted with gratitude and alacrity, the collection was installed under Mr. Bryan's direction by June 5, 1866, and deeded to the Society April 2, 1867, on which date the generous donor was requested to sit for his portrait, which was painted that year by William O. Stone. Mr. Bryan gave us that year the excellent portrait of his father, Guy Bryan (1755-1829), President of the American Fire Insurance Company and director of the Second United States Bank, by Thomas Sully, a replica painted by the artist in 1832 from his original of 1825.

Mr. Bryan was in Europe buying sixty more pictures for his collection in 1870 and was returning with them on the *Lafayette* when a cold he had contracted on the continent turned into pneumonia. Realizing his precarious condition, he had a lawyer draw up a statement of his intention to add these pictures to the gift already made to the Society but he died on May 14th before it could be signed. However, an affidavit as to his known wishes was signed by several witnesses and his heirs generously agreed to the carrying out of his obvious desires. Our Minutes record that Mr. Bryan was "not only a genial companion and intelligent gentleman of probity and culture, but a public benefactor in his liberal efforts to promote a knowledge of and taste for the Fine Arts in this country." Through this munificent gift the Society secured its most important collection of paintings of the great artists of Europe and America,* which, until the opening of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1872, helped to make ours the greatest art museum in the city.

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

HAMILTON FISH (1808-1893)

TWELFTH PRESIDENT (1867-1869)



HAMILTON FISH (1808-1893)

Twelfth President, 1867-1869

By Daniel Huntington

Courtesy of Columbia University

The distinguished statesman Hamilton Fish was born in New York, the son of a Revolutionary officer of eminence, wealth and prominent family, and of Elizabeth Stuyvesant, descendant and heir of Governor Peter Stuyvesant. He graduated from Columbia in 1827, studied law under Peter A. Jay, was admitted to the bar in 1830 and practiced in New York. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives, 1843-1845, Lieutenant Governor of New York, 1847-1848, and Governor, 1849-1850. He was United States Senator, 1851-1857, and during the Civil War served on the Union Defense Committee of the City of New York and as a federal Commissioner for the Relief of Prisoners. He served as Secretary of State under the ineffectual U. S. Grant for

two terms, 1869-1877, with a record of great distinction. His refinement, cultivated tastes, cordiality and dignity were in great contrast to the rest of the shoddy national administration in which he served. Retiring to private life, he was for years a Trustee of Columbia, President-General of the Society of the Cincinnati, President of the Union League Club, took a prominent part in the deliberations of the Episcopal Church and various local literary and philanthropic organizations. Hamilton Fish joined our Society in 1832, was elected an Honorary Member in 1859 and President from 1867 until he resigned on March 29, 1869, to become Secretary of State. On retirement, he served as our First Vice-President, 1881-1888, when he retired because of age, being then in his eightieth year. We have his oil portrait by Heaton, after Huntington.

AT THE beginning of Hamilton Fish's three-year presidency of the Society Andrew Johnson continued his inept administration of our government and was impeached in 1868 and the war hero, General U. S. Grant, was elected to succeed him. In this period Nebraska became a State and Wyoming a

Territory; Alaska was purchased and Midway Island fortunately occupied. Under the organizing genius of Vanderbilt, the various small railroads across the State from New York to Buffalo were consolidated into the New York Central Railroad; the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads were completed, giving us rail service from ocean to ocean. Air brakes and steel rails were perfected. Refrigerator cars were invented, making it feasible for Armour to begin his great packing houses. Accelerated business led to the manufacture of Remington typewriters, and improved transportation to the West led to large-scale farming, the invention of the American windmill, and the organization of the Grange. Here in New York the first elevated railroad in the country was opened on Ninth Avenue in 1867; our good neighbor, the American Museum of Natural History, was founded in 1869; but a severe panic hit Wall Street on "Black Friday," September twenty-fourth of that year.

Frederic DePeyster had made a devoted and hard-working president for our Society but it was evident that some of the members wished a man of greater political distinction to bring prestige to our deliberations. So, at the annual meeting on January 2, 1867, there were two tickets in the field, both identical with the exception of one office: DePeyster for President on one; and Honorable Hamilton Fish, former Governor and United States Senator, on the other. Fish won the election by two votes and held office until March 29, 1869, when he resigned, having been appointed Secretary of State under Grant on the eleventh. This gave our Society the unique distinction of having the Secretary of State of the United States as our President for eighteen days!

But an interesting situation developed at the meeting following the election. It seems that Mr. Fish had been elected without his knowledge or consent and so, three days later, he wrote declining to serve since he considered Mr. DePeyster a much better candidate because of his long association with the Society and because he could devote more time to the work of the office. On

hearing the letter read, Mr. DePeyster promptly moved that the letter of resignation be laid on the table and that Mr. Fish's election be declared unanimous. The motion was seconded by George Bancroft and unanimously carried, with instructions that the action of the Society be transmitted to Mr. Fish. Mr. Bancroft then offered an eloquent resolution of gratitude and appreciation for the distinguished services of the out-going President, Mr. DePeyster. Of course Hamilton Fish attended the next meeting and delivered a graceful and modest speech of acceptance. During his short tenure of the office he faithfully presided at most of the meetings which, perhaps because of his being there, and because of the addition of 268 new members, were unusually well attended. The speakers included such well-known authorities as E. G. Squier who spoke on "The City of the Sun, Cuzco, the Capital of the Inca Empire"; Evert A. Duyckinck: "A Memorial to Francis L. Hawks, D.D."; J. Hammond Trumbull: "The Beginning of Indian Missions in New England, John Eliot and his work as a Translator" [Trumbull and the late Wilberforce Eames were the last scholars who could read Eliot's translation of the Bible in the language of the Massachusetts Indians (of which our Library owns a copy)]; the late James Fenimore Cooper: "The Battle of Plattsburgh Bay '" (read by Librarian Moore from the original Cooper manuscript which we still own); John Lothrop Motley: "Political Progress in Europe and America"; William Cullen Bryant: "The Life and Writings of Fitz-Greene Halleck"; and John Bigelow: "Some Recollections of the Late Antoine Pierre Berryer." Of these we published the papers by Duyckinck, Motley, Bryant, and Bigelow.

Three outstanding gifts were received during these years: two large panoramic views of Niagara Falls painted shortly after the Revolutionary War by John Trumbull, presented by Dr. Alexander E. Hosack, son of our former President, Dr. David Hosack; the important papers of Joseph Reed, Revolutionary War General and President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, including correspondence on military, legal and public

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

affairs, 1757, 1763-1795, filling twelve large volumes, the gift of his descendant, Honorable William B. Reed of Philadelphia, who gave the collection to us rather than to a Philadelphia library because "There is not a single Literary Institution in Philadelphia, that I am aware of, that has a fireproof building."

One of the choicest private libraries ever added to the Society's



FRANCIS L. HAWKS (1798-1866)

Marble bust by David Richards

Gift of Holy Saviour Church, 1877

collections was assembled by Reverend Francis Lister Hawks, D.D., LL.D. (1798-1866), for many years one of our most active members. He delivered four lectures before the Society, 1836-1839, was on the Committee on Printed Publications, 1837-1838, and a member of the Executive Committee, 1849-1859. A distinguished Episcopalian preacher, educator, and church historian, he was also greatly interested in the secular history of our country and gathered an important library of some two thousand volumes on the subject of which about one hundred were of great rarity. On his death, this collection was sold by his heirs to our member since 1852, William Niblo,¹⁰ proprietor of Niblo's Garden, who, on April 2, 1867, presented

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

it to the Society. It was immediately named the Hawks-Niblo Collection and a catalogue of it was published in 1871, both as a separate and in connection with a memorial to its founder.¹¹ If it were possible to duplicate the collection today, one would have to write a check in six figures. Those of you who are familiar with the crown jewels of American history will be happy to know that



WILLIAM NIBLO (1789-1878)

Drawing by James G. Cooper

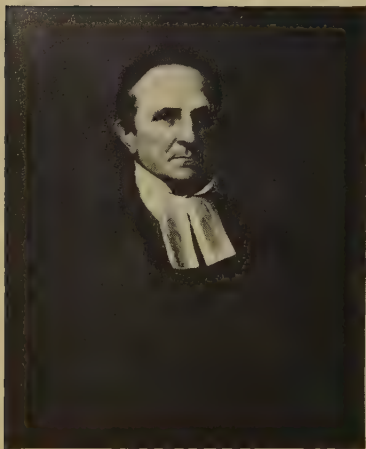
Certified by Thomas W. Rooker, 1896

the following titles were included: Richard Hakluyt: *Virginia Richly Valued*, 1609; Thomas Morton: *New English Canaan*, 1637; James Rosier: *A True Relation*, 1605; Captain John Smith: *A True Relation*, 1608; Andre Thevet: *The New Founde World*, 1568; Adrian Vanderdonck: *Beschryvinge van Nieuw-Nederlant*, 1656; Edward Williams: *Virgo Triumphans*, 1650; Edward Winslow: *Hypocrisie Unmasked*, 1646; his *New England's Salamander*, 1647; his *Glorious Progress of the Gospel among the Indians of New England*, 1649; and William Wood: *New England's Prospect*, 1635. As though this treasure were not enough for one day, James Lenox also presented at the same meeting a set of both the large and small voyages of De Bry.

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

THOMAS DE WITT (1791-1874)

THIRTEENTH PRESIDENT (1869-1871)



REV. THOMAS DE WITT (1791-1874)

Thirteenth President, 1869-1871

By Samuel B. Waugh, 1858

Gift of Cuyler and Jesup, 1858

It was eminently fitting that our next President should have been descended from one of the earliest Dutch settlers of New Netherland and that he should have been one of the last who was able to preach to his congregation in the Dutch language. Reverend Thomas DeWitt, D.D., was born in the old Dutch town of Esopus or Kingston, graduated from Union College in 1808 and from the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, New Jersey, four years later. He preached in Dutchess County until 1827 when he became one of the pastors of the Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church in New York City of which he was the senior clergyman from 1858 until his death in New York in 1874. He had an intimate knowledge of the classics and a familiarity with modern languages; his scholarship

was extraordinary and his love for American history, particularly that of his own State, was unusual. In addition to many high offices in his own denomination, Dr. DeWitt was at various times a trustee of Rutgers and Columbia Colleges and a member of the Council of the University of the City of New York.

Having joined our Society in 1838, his active interest in its work led to his election as Second Vice-President two years later, a position which he held until 1849; he became First Vice-President the following year and held that post until, in 1869, he became President of the Society, resigning in 1871 because of age. He delivered several addresses before the Society, two of which were published,¹² and on every appropriate occasion, for over thirty years, was requested to open or close the special meetings of the Society with prayer. That he was held in affectionate regard by his associates we may learn from George H. Moore's resolution on his retirement from office:

"Resolved, that the Society receives with profound sensibility this announcement [his desire to be relieved from active official duty] from Dr. DeWitt and desires to place upon record the grateful appreciation with

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

which it must ever recall the memory of his long continued and valuable labors in its service.

"Resolved, That the Society recurs with affectionate pride to the fact that during his membership of thirty-four years it has had the honor to place him at each successive annual election for thirty-two years among its presiding officers; where his kindness of temper, superiority of intellect and dignity of character have always exalted and magnified his office.

"Resolved, That the Society will follow him into his retirement with loving regard and an earnest hope that he may long live to enjoy a full measure of that repose to which his age and his faithful public services so richly entitle him."

The Society owns two oil portraits of Dr. DeWitt, one by Samuel B. Waugh and the other by William Cogswell.

DURING Dr. DeWitt's brief regime our country of over 38,500,000 people saw the nation reunited, with every state represented in Congress for the first time since 1860 and the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing racial equality of the right to vote, ratified. We applauded the establishment of the Civil Service Commission, deplored the Franco-Prussian War, and were distressed with the sad news of the Chicago Fire. We learned with interest of the incorporation of the Standard Oil Company and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and were delighted with the powerful cartoons of Thomas Nast (remember the small boy who sold tickets at the Bryan Gallery of Christian Art?) in *Harper's Weekly* and the *Times* which exposed the Tweed Ring and led to its overthrow and to the conviction of Boss Tweed.

Hamilton Fish resigned the presidency on March 29, 1869, to become Secretary of State and, on June 1st Dr. DeWitt, the First Vice-President, then being out of the city and so unable to protest, was appointed by a vote of the Society to fill the vacancy. He was reelected in 1870 and 1871. The 169 new members enrolled during DeWitt's term included several of distinction: Charles Francis Adams, John Bigelow, George William Curtis, Lorenzo Delmonico, and Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, historian of the city.

Regardless of changes in administration, our series of lectures went calmly on as usual and the members during these years heard among others, William B. Ogden, first Mayor of Chicago and first President of the Union Pacific Railroad, tell them about "The Pacific Railroad, Its Importance and Usefulness"; John Bigelow, lecturing on "Beaumarchais the Merchant"—a subject which was continued by James Parton with "Beaumarchais the Dramatist of the French Revolution"; Reverend Elias Nason, on "The Life and Times of Mrs. [Susanna Haswell] Rowson, Author, Actress and Teacher"¹³; William Cullen Bryant, on "The Life, Character and Writings of Gulian C. Verplanck"; Benson J. Lossing, on "The Late Dr. Alexander Anderson, the First Engraver on Wood in America, with a Brief History of the Art"; Horace Greeley, on "The American Desert" in which he reported: "Buffaloes fast vanishing. Fewer today [1870] than I saw in three days eleven years ago [1859]"; and Charles Francis Adams, on "The Struggle for Neutrality in America." The addresses of Bigelow, Bryant, Lossing, and Adams were printed by the Society.

There were valued additions to our portrait collection during this period, including a likeness of President James Madison by Durand, one of Ambrose Spencer and another of William W. Van Ness, both Justices of the New York Supreme Court, by Jarvis. We also secured one of our most interesting museum exhibits, the camp cot used by General George Washington during the Revolutionary War and given by him at the close of the War to his military secretary, Colonel Richard Varick.¹⁴

By 1870 our building was already becoming very crowded and many important art and museum objects could not be exhibited for lack of space. For a year or two there was much discussion of the need for a new and larger building and the members looked longingly at the site in Central Park set apart for them by the Legislature, but the raising of the huge sum necessary for the erection of the proposed museum was too vast an undertaking and, though a committee of the most eminent

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

citizens of the metropolis gave the matter their careful study, the project was finally abandoned.

An enthusiastic *New York Times* reporter, who was particularly interested in the Egyptian collection, made this observation:

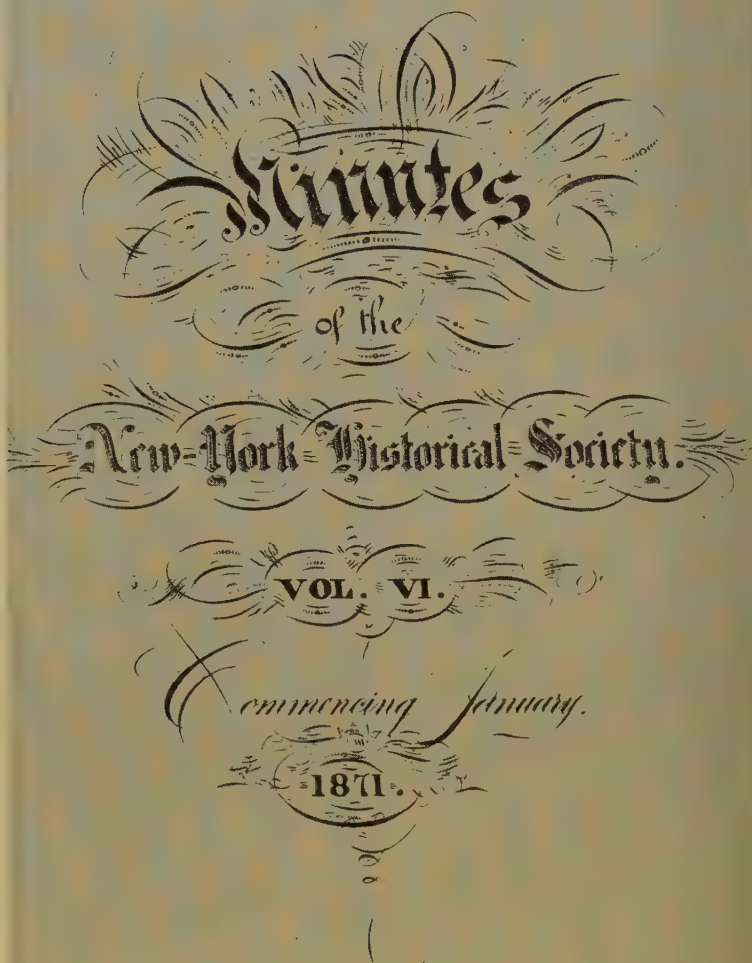
The museum and library of the New-York Historical Society, in Second Avenue, is interesting not only to the man of learning and the *savant*, but also to every man, woman and child of average intelligence

Although several of the most valuable of the collections of curiosities and antiquities committed to the safe-keeping of the Society are at present hidden away from sight, owing to the want of sufficient space and the necessary accommodation, such as the Indian collection and the Peruvian Antiquities [*now at the Brooklyn Museum*], yet enough remains to occupy the attention and supply instructive and amusing food to the mind for weeks and months.¹⁵

A feature writer for the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, who signed himself *A.L.G.*, showed a similar enthusiasm in two articles describing our collections of Egyptian antiquities and European and American paintings. His comment was that "Probably no collection of relics, antiquities, records and paintings in our common country, or even on the continent of America, can compare with the one in possession of the New York Historical Society."¹⁶ The crowded arrangement of the collections did not seem to bother this visitor, for all museums were alike in this respect, the selective exhibition of works of art being still a generation or more away.



A GLIMPSE OF CROWDED COLLECTIONS IN THE OLD SOCIETY BUILDING



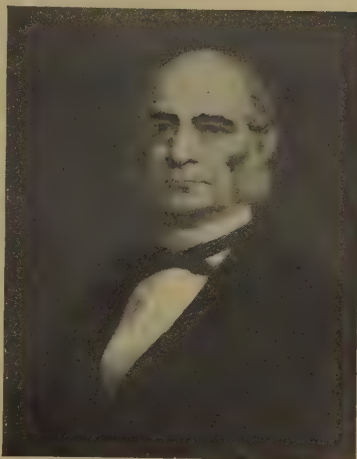
RECORDING SECRETARY WARNER'S DECORATIVE TITLE PAGE OF OUR MINUTES
Volume VI, commencing January 1871

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

AUGUSTUS SCHELL (1812-1884)

FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT (1872)

Augustus Schell, lawyer, politician and businessman, was descended from a family which came to Rhinebeck from the Rhenish Palatinate shortly before the Revolution. He graduated with honors from Union College in 1830, was admitted to the bar in 1832 and joined the law firm of John Slosson in New York City soon after. He was associated with Commodore Vanderbilt, Jay Gould, and others in the development of railroads, the Western Union Telegraph Company, banks and insurance companies. He was a heavy operator on Wall Street and died worth several million dollars which, having no children, he left to his nieces and nephews. He was also high in the ranks of Tammany, succeeding William M. Tweed as Grand Sachem. As Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, 1872-



AUGUSTUS SCHELL (1812-1884)

Fourteenth and sixteenth President
of the Society, 1872, 1883-1884

By Eastman Johnson, 1885

Gift of his widow, 1886

1876, he backed Horace Greeley for President. Though he was a candidate for various offices supported by Tammany, he was, according to the New York Herald of November 1, 1877, "an old pump that the boys could never cotton to in a thousand years." However, he was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Buchanan in 1857; elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1867 and bore a prominent part in its most important labors; and was appointed by Governor Hoffman a member of the State Constitutional Amendment Commission. He was associated with many local clubs, societies and institutions, his favorite charity being the New York Institution for the Blind of which he was President from 1866 until his death.

Mr. Schell joined the Society in 1838 and became a life member in 1850. He served on the Executive Committee from 1845 to 1872, 1883-1884 and was its Chairman for twenty years during the period of its most arduous labors and activity. He was elected First Vice-President in 1871 and President in 1872 for a single year but was reelected in 1883 and served until his death on March 27, 1884, at the age of 72. He left the Society \$5,000 in his will." Mrs. Schell gave us his posthumous portrait.

DURING 1872 U. S. Grant was reëlected President and his rival, Horace Greeley, died before the electoral vote was cast. A seventy-three million dollar fire broke out in Boston; Montgomery Ward and Company, our first mail-order house, was founded in Chicago and issued its first catalogue on a single sheet; the Yellowstone National Park was established; *Popular Science Monthly* was founded; and here in New York Samuel Ward McAllister organized "The Patriarchs," a group of the elect to decide who were to be invited to the top-flight social affairs of the city.

It is a pleasure to record that two famous bookmen joined the Society this year: Joseph Sabin, the eminent bookseller and bibliographer, and Grenville Kane, whose valuable library of Americana is now at Princeton. Gifts continued to pour in, notable among them being the magnificent collection of manuscripts and transcripts relating to the history of Spanish America, especially Florida, collected by Buckingham Smith and bequeathed by him to the Society, and his extremely valuable library on the same general subject, purchased and presented to our Library by John David Wolfe. With the Smith library came the world-famous Globe of Euphrosynus Ulpian, made in Rome in 1542, which records the discoveries of Giovanni Da Verrazano in North America. This 15 ½-inch copper globe, on its original wooden stand, was found by Buckingham Smith in Madrid in 1859 and brought that year to New York where he deposited it for safe keeping in our care. "This ancient globe has come to us from the Eternal City, finding a permanent resting place at last, not without a certain fine justice, in the great metropolis which looks out upon the splendid harbor visited and described by him whose name is so prominently engraved upon the portion representing the New World."¹⁸

In 1870 George H. Moore bought from the artist a collection of 220 original pencil-and-ink drawings of American Indians and scenes from Indian life by George Catlin (1796-1872) which the famous artist had planned to issue as a subscription volume but



THE GLOBE OF ULPUS, 1542
From the Buckingham Smith Collection
Gift of John David Wolfe, 1872

which was never published. Two years later Mr. Moore sold this precious collection to the Society, of which Mr. Catlin had long been a member. We also have his oil portrait of Major General Winfield Scott and his very important watercolor group of the Virginia Convention of 1830, known as *The Last Meeting of the Giants*.

This year we also received the Civil War library of General John Watts DePeyster, a valued addition to his previous gifts; twelve precious letters from George Washington to William Fitzhugh; and the extra-illustrated *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, assembled twenty years earlier by the well-known book collector, John Allan. Our former President, Frederic DePeyster, added his portrait by George Gerhard to our presidential gallery.



COL. ANDREW WARNER (1806-1899)

Recording Secretary, 1846-1849, 1854-1899

By George A. Baker, Jr. (1821-1880)

Painted from life for the Society, 1877

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

FREDERIC DE PEYSTER (1769-1862)¹⁹

FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT (1873-1882)

DURING these ten eventful years the nation of fifty million people had four Presidents: Grant, Hayes, Garfield, who was shot September 19, 1881, and was succeeded by his Vice-President, Chester A. Arthur. Colorado became a State in 1876 and the Hawaiian Islands were considered part of our domain from 1881. The carpetbagger government in South Carolina and Louisiana continued to be disgraceful under Grant but was finally ended in 1877 under Hayes. Indian troubles in the West were by no means over, for we had the Custer Massacre on the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. The panic of 1873 lasted for six years, caused the closing of the New York Stock Exchange for ten days and thousands of financial failures. However, by 1880 business had recovered and a decade of great railroad-building began. The invention of barbed wire in 1874 brought to an end the open-range cattle industry a few years later and the triumph of the sheep rancher and prairie farmer. Our cities were emerging from the gloom of oil street lamps and the picturesque old lamplighter was no more when, in 1879, Cleveland and San Francisco installed arc lamps; in 1880 the Brush system of electric street lights on Broadway began the "Great White Way"; and in 1882 Edison opened his electric-light plant for the lighting of shops and homes in New York City. Communications, too, were improving, with the first telephone exchange in New Haven in 1878, an Atlantic cable to France the next year, and the Western Union Telegraph Company organized in 1881, thanks to S. F. B. Morse, Alfred Vail, Ezra Cornell, and their Wall Street promoters, including our two-time president Augustus Schell. In 1879 that typically American phenomenon, the Woolworth five-and-ten-cent store, came to gladden the hearts of the thrifty, and Edison's invention of the mimeograph, the phonograph, and the incandescent light, together with Eastman's photographic dry plates in the 1870's, brought new conveniences and comforts to everyone.

The Philadelphia Centennial was a great success in 1876 in spite of hard times and from it we learned of our inventive genius, our commercial and agricultural expansion, our arts and crafts (such as they were, and they were pretty terrible), and a great deal of our history. Inspired by this centennial of the founding of our nation, monuments were dedicated, spread-eagle speeches were delivered, and every community with any history at all recorded it in a pamphlet or a ponderous volume. This period of cultural awakening gave us the Chautauqua Assembly, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the game of tennis in 1874, the latter heralding the beginning of universal participation in outdoor sports, shorter skirts, sensible dress and bobbed hair for the ladies and better national health. In this period the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross came to America bringing help and consolation in war and peace and, in 1875, Louis Prang made the holiday season gay and friendly with our first Christmas card. Five years later visitors to New York could look with awe at "Cleopatra's Needle" (which had nothing to do with Cleopatra) in Central Park and speculate on the civilization of Thothmes III who erected it in the fifteenth century B.C. to commemorate the long-since-forgotten achievements of his reign and those of Rameses II and Osarkon I. To further gratify their new-found enthusiasm for ancient Egypt they could then visit The New-York Historical Society and examine the mummified remains of the sacred bulls of Apis from the tombs of Dashour and the thousand other graphic reminders of the past glories of the Middle East.

There seems to have been a palace revolution at the annual meeting of 1873. President Schell, who had served only one year and had been present at half of the meetings, had been renominated with his brother officers for the ensuing year, but at that meeting Mr. John P. Crosby put a rival ticket in nomination. This rival ticket won by a close margin and Frederic DePeyster became President by 16 votes; William Cullen Bryant, First Vice-President by four votes; William J. Hoppin, Foreign Cor-

responding Secretary by three votes; and Evert A. Duyckinck, Domestic Corresponding Secretary by four votes; with James W. Beekman (Second Vice-President), Andrew Warner (Recording Secretary), Benjamin H. Field (Treasurer), and George H. Moore (Librarian) on both tickets. Mr. Warner, who had been Recording Secretary for over twenty years, refused to serve, since "there were reasons which induced him to decline accepting the office in association with the gentleman just elected President." However, on February 18th he wrote withdrawing his resignation "as the reasons which induced him to decline the office of Recording Secretary no longer exist." What these reasons were the records do not show!

On January 14th Mr. DePeyster accepted the office of President, though he was not present at the annual meeting and had not been consulted by the friends who placed him in nomination. Evidently considerable heat had been generated by the election and so Mr. DePeyster wrote the defeated candidate the following conciliatory letter:

76 University Place, N.Y. Jan'y 27, 1873

My dear Mr. Schell

In the recent election for President of the N.Y. Hist. Society, the result was quite a surprise to me; the influence of friends having been exerted without my knowledge.

I yielded subsequently to their suggestions, simply, for the reason expressed by them that the contest, being an open one and fairly conducted, I should ill requite their exertions, by a refusal to serve.

But as I intend to state on taking the Chair as Pres't, this occurrence cannot affect our personal relations; which have ever been cordial; and for a length of time that has outrun my memory.

I should, at once, have called upon you to say as much verbally; but I learned that you were in Albany on public matters.

Faithfully yours,

Hon. Augustus Schell.

FREDERIC DEPEYSTER

On January 21st Mr. Duyckinck, Acting Recording Secretary, had notified Mr. Schell that the president had appointed him a member of the Executive Committee and the latter wired Mr. Duyckinck from Washington on February 4th that "while I

1873
February 4.

At a stated meeting of the New York Historical Society, held in
Hall, on Tuesday Evening, February 4th, 1873.

Present:

FredERIC DE CUYSTER,	President.
William Cullen Bryant,	First Vice President.
William J. Foyner,	Emerg. Corresponding Secy.
Erast A. Dwyer,	Business Corresponding Secretary.
Benjamin H. Field,	Treasurer.
George H. Moore,	Librarian.

John B. Moore,	Am. T. Clifford Dwyer,	Charles A. Briggs,
John C. Newark,	Fredrick Thompson,	Nathan S. Brown,
David Wolfe Bishop,	Edgar M. Crawford,	Fredrick J. de Cuyster,
John D. Clinton,	Andrew W. Little,	P. C. Schuyler,
Richard W. Glendon,	William C. Churchill,	Thomas M. Brown,
William M. Brown,	George T. Gould,	Dr. Edwin S. Fitch,
Sylvester R. Condit,	John T. Alexander,	A. A. Martin,
Isaac Russell,	Robert J. Brown,	John S. Peirce,
Charles W. Darling,	Rufus L. Bergen,	Henry S. Brown,
E. J. Delavan,	Charles C. Jones, Jr.	Jonathan A. Marshall,
Walter H. Peckham,	J. Wells de Cuyster,	Charles Van Hook,
Isidore Haude Totter,	Dr. C. H. James,	Thomas Foulke,
J. Nelson de Cuyster,	Charles J. Hyde,	L. Gayard Smith,
James F. de Cuyster,	Harriet F. Randolph,	Abraham Sover,
Rev. Martha J. Law,	Joseph Haigh,	Jeremiah S. Sizer,
William Anson,	John Raymond,	Thomas F. De Vos,
Alfred T. Ashel,	John A. Russell,	John C. Connor,
David Seaman,	Rev. Dr. F. De Costa,	Robert A. Crosby,
Holmes S. Doty,	Isaac C. Ogden, Jr.	Henry S. Ames,
	and others.	

On taking the Chair, Mr. De Cuyster addressed the Society:
Tollen Members.

Before entering upon the regular business of the evening,
I desire to make a few remarks respecting the event which has again placed me
in the Presidential Chair.

The recent election, so far as it concerned myself, was conducted by
those who suggested me as their candidate without my concurrence or personal
agency on my part. To the friends who kindly interested themselves on my behalf,
my thanks are warmly due; and I avail myself of the opportunity now offered

MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 4, 1873

In Recording Secretary Warner's calligraphy,
though he did not accept his re-election until two weeks later

appreciate the kindness with which the appointment has been tendered, you will permit me to say that, in my judgment, the recent action of the Society renders it proper that I should not accept it." All very polite but still there was something smoldering underneath and he did not come back on the Executive Committee for seven years or to a meeting of the Society until after DePeyster's death in 1882. On the same day, however, he replied to the President:

The Arlington, Washington, D.C., Feb. 4th 1873

My dear Mr. DePeyster

Your letter of 27th of January came to hand. I appreciate fully the force of the suggestions you make as to the result of the recent election for President of the New York Historical Society, and I agree with you, that such result ought not to affect and shall not be permitted to affect the friendly personal relations which have so long existed between us.

It is my hope that your election to the Presidency will tend to increase the prosperity and usefulness of the Society.

I take this occasion to thank you for the confidence implied by the appointment of myself as a member of the Executive Committee of the 3d class to serve for three years, but in view of the [result of the election, ~~crossed out~~] recent action of the Society, I have felt that it was proper, that I should decline the appointment, and I have notified Mr. Duyckinck, the Acting Recording Secretary, accordingly.

Very truly yours,

AUGUSTUS SCHELL

Mr. Schell could forgive Mr. DePeyster but not the members of the Society who had defeated him by sixteen votes for the coveted office of President. He had to wait ten years for Mr. DePeyster to die in office before he, once more, became President. After serving for an additional two years, he too left the presidential chair vacant by his death.

As might be expected, Mr. DePeyster's second administration was a fruitful one. He was completely devoted to the Society and seldom missed a meeting except, toward the last, because of illness.

Perhaps it would be interesting to look in on some of the meet-

ings during the ten years of Mr. DePeyster's administration and see if we can recognize some of the new faces among the well-over-500 members who joined during this period. They may not have come to very many meetings, but Presidents Hayes and Garfield were members and so was Prime Minister William E. Gladstone. Elihu Root (later to be Secretary of State), Andrew D. White (U. S. Minister to Germany and at this time the first President of Cornell University), and Admiral George H. Preble are there, however, and so are such literary folk as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Moses Coit Tyler, and E. B. O'Callaghan and the art collector Louis Durr. In view of the need for more money in our Building Fund, it is a pleasure to see Russell Sage, William K. Vanderbilt, Collis P. Huntington, William W. Astor, and J. P. Morgan in the audience but the one we really like best is our new member, Daniel Parish, Jr., who joined the Society in 1882 and spent much of the rest of his life buying important, rare, and out-of-the-way books which he brought in every few days as gifts to our Library.

Undoubtedly they and many other members who attended were attracted by the notable speakers on our programs, including Francis Parkman, Moses Coit Tyler, and Andrew D. White. Our Librarian, John Austin Stevens, had this to say on the subject: "Notwithstanding the remoteness of the Library building from the centers of residence of its members, the meetings of the Society are largely attended, and great interest is shown in its proceedings."²⁰ "The need of a more northerly, central, and accessible location is felt more and more each day."²¹ "Numerous new members were admitted, among them several ladies. Ladies have been always gladly received into the ranks of the Society, and are entitled to all its privileges, including the ballot."²² Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, well-known author of a standard history of the city, who had joined the Society in 1870, was probably the first woman to deliver an address before our members when, on November 5, 1878, she spoke on "Lyon Gardiner, Founder of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, the First English Settlement



MRS. MARTHA J. LAMB (1829-1893), FIRST WOMAN TO ADDRESS THE SOCIETY

By Cornelia Adele Fassett, 1878

Bequest of the subject, 1893

Within the State of New York." She had previously prepared a paper on "Mrs. Edward Livingston," which was read for her by the Librarian on March 7, 1871, the first contribution of a woman to our proceedings.

Then there was the special meeting to celebrate the Centennial of the Adoption of the Flag of the United States at which Major General Schuyler Hamilton spoke on "Our National Flag, its History in a Century"; the Centennial of the Adoption of the New York State Constitution which was held in the Academy of Music and at which the address on "The Constitution" was delivered by Honorable Charles O'Connor, our Vice-President, who, as Deputy Attorney General, had prosecuted and broken the notorious Tweed Ring; and our Seventy-fifth Anniversary celebration when President DePeyster gave an excellent address on "The Life and Administration of Richard, Earl of Bello-mont," which we published in 1879.

Not the least interesting event at the Society's building was the informal visit during the summer of 1881 of Lafayette's grandson, Edmond de Lafayette, and his companion the Vicomte de Rochambeau. A group of important members of the Society were there to greet them and remind them that Lafayette and his son had also been our guests in 1824 and had then been made Honorary Members of the Society. These fine young men were greatly interested in the manuscripts, portraits, and relics of the Revolutionary War services of their distinguished ancestors—and in the mummified bulls of Apis. But the two really outstanding affairs of this period were the Centennial of the Battle of Harlem, held on the future campus of Columbia University, and the meeting in memory of William Cullen Bryant at the Academy of Music, both of which are described in the chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners*.

Several important bequests came to us, including the genealogical library of 1,400 volumes of Stephen Whitney Phoenix (1839–1881) and with it a fund of \$15,000 from which we are still buying additional books in the same field; a \$10,000 bequest from Thomas Barron; one of \$5,000 from Edward Bill; and another of \$1,000 from Richard E. Mount.

For the Library, the most exciting event was the bequest of George Brinley. He had gathered the greatest library of Americana ever privately assembled and left instructions in his will that a selected group of libraries should have a buying credit at the sale of his collection. Our share was \$2,500 and the other beneficiaries were: the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, \$2,500, American Antiquarian Society and Watkinson Library, the latter then at Hartford, \$5,000 each; and Yale University (which had given Brinley an honorary M.A.), \$10,000. This wise arrangement not only made it possible for his favorite libraries to secure just the books they wanted most, as the gift of the famous collector, but it also greatly stimulated the sale and so the books brought phenomenal prices. For example, the *Bay Psalm Book*, first book printed in North America, brought \$1,200, and

the *Gutenberg Bible*, first book printed in Europe, brought \$8,000—unheard of prices in those days (1878–1881). What are they worth today? The Brinley copy of the former finally went to Yale for \$151,000, and a fine copy of the latter would be worth a quarter of a million. But of course not many of the prices have increased so much.

At this sale the various buyers generally used pseudonyms in order to try to hide their identity; ours, very appropriately, was *Benson*, the name of our first President. In the first of the five sales, which extended from 1879 to 1893, we were rather timid, preferring to save our buying credit for the later sales, but we did manage to get a lot of New England local histories, rare laws and journals, almanacs and periodicals, and a few rare books such as Montanus's *America*, 1671, with the fine view of New Amsterdam, which cost us all of \$11.00; and Calef's *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, 1700, at \$55.00. At the second sale we did a little better, picking up some very rare early New York imprints, almanacs, periodicals and newspapers of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and some rare laws. We got a fairly good lot of Western items at the third sale and some excellent early New York imprints and poetry at the fourth sale, but our buying credit must have been used up by that time since we bought nothing at the final sale. Altogether, we did get hundreds of rare books, pamphlets, laws, journals, periodicals and newspapers, but we were not used to auction buying and were too timid to compete against Lenox, John Carter Brown, and Yale for the plums. How much better off we and the American Antiquarian Society would have been if both had bought a few of the choice expensive items, many of which have never since appeared in the market, rather than the quantity of minor titles. Still, we did get a lot of important New York material and that is what counted most.

The most important bequest, however, was in the field of art, for in 1882 Louis Durr (1821–1880), a wealthy German-born gold and silver refiner and assayer, left his collection of 158 paintings to any local museum his executors might select, and they

chose our Society. Some of his lesser art works were sold by his executors to make up a fund of \$8,000 which accompanied the bequest to provide an income for the enlargement of the collection. By the time our 1915 art catalogue was issued this fund had enabled us to add 23 American paintings to the collection which has continued to grow modestly ever since. Though delighted to secure this fine collection which admirably supplemented the Bryan paintings, it was remarked that the new collection was "a fresh trial to the capacity of our building, crowded as it is in every part." Later the same year the Durr trustees added to the collection a small group of engravings and over a hundred volumes on art.



LOUIS DURR (1821-1880)
Bronze bust by Henry Baerer
Gift of Durr's Executors, 1884

Our Publication Fund series of source volumes on American history had been appearing annually since 1868. Now, in 1874, John Divine Jones offered us \$3,000 which, when we finally received it four years later, was increased to \$6,000, to serve as a revolving fund for the publication of a similar series. The first work printed from this fund was Thomas Jones's *History of New York during the Revolutionary War*. Jones was a Tory Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province and had written a history of his times of great value and interest. The manuscript had descended in his family to Edward F. De Lancey who offered it for publication and who edited it when we brought it out in 1879 in two well-printed and illustrated volumes. It is still the best work on the subject in spite of its author's Tory bias.

Though the building was extremely crowded, the Society could never turn down a valuable gift, even when it was Thomas

Crawford's huge masterpiece in marble, *The Indian*, which had been on loan for some years and was now purchased and presented by President DePeyster. He also gave a series of fourteen oil portraits of the Inca rulers of Peru, dating from the beginning of the seventeenth century. Other paintings of importance included John Vanderlyn's portrait of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston in Napoleonic court costume (we also own the original costume); John Searle's extremely interesting *Interior of the Park Theatre*, 1822, with a key identifying the more important people in the audience; the important original watercolor view of New Amsterdam in 1650 by Laurens Block; and the equally interesting portrait of Cornelius Steenwyck (d. 1684), Burgomaster of New York under the Dutch and Mayor under the English, painted by Jan Van Goosen about 1667-8, with a view of New Amsterdam of about 1656 below the portrait.

The crowded building was also glad to make room for the four remaining pieces of the lead statue of George III, pulled down by the citizens in 1776 and partly run into bullets, one of our most interesting souvenirs of Revolutionary days; and also the drawing room mantle of the Beekman Mansion (1763-1874), the British headquarters during their occupation of New York in the Revolutionary War, which was presented in 1874 by Hon. James W. Beekman..

The Library, too, had had its share of good fortune for, in 1880, the Gallatin family presented the extremely important and extensive collection of papers of Albert Gallatin and other members of the family, a collection which has been industriously mined by recent historians and from which a biography of Albert Gallatin is now being written. A collection of over 2,000 books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, and manuscript volumes also came from the library of former Mayor Stephen Allen. Another donor gave an extremely rare and well-nigh unique collection of Leeds Almanacs, printed by William Bradford, for 1704 to 1716; and still another, the interesting manuscript account book of the Theatre Royal, conducted in the old

John Street Theatre by the officers of the British Army during their occupation of the city, 1778-1779.

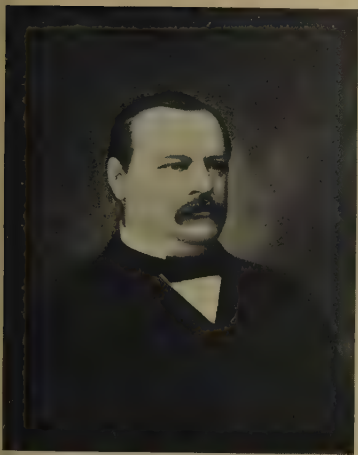
Though the Society was in a flourishing condition as far as running expenses were concerned, and the special funds totalled \$40,000, a panic was on and the officers decided in 1875 that it was not an opportune moment to start a drive for a new building which would cost at least half a million dollars. But by 1880 they felt that the storm was over and the country prospering once more, so a new Building Committee, headed by Augustus Schell, was appointed and went to work to raise the fund which, years later, helped build the present building.

Two misfortunes came to hamper the work of the Society. On October 3, 1876, George H. Moore, who had seen 36 years of loyal service (Assistant Librarian, 1841-1849, Librarian, 1849-1876) and who had been principally responsible for the smooth and successful running of the Society all those years, resigned to become head of the Lenox Library. And, on October 3, 1882, death took President Frederic DePeyster in the 86th year of his age, ending the generous and outstanding services of one of our best presidents.

AUGUSTUS SCHELL (1812-1884)²⁸

SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT (1883-1884)

CHESTER A. ARTHUR continued as President of the nation during Mr. Schell's second brief administration of the Society's affairs; Standard Time was established; the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed; New York could talk to Boston by telephone; and, shortly after Schell's death, we had another financial panic. The *Ladies Home Journal* was founded and Joseph Pulitzer bought the *New York World* and made it a great newspaper; the Brooklyn Bridge was opened; and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt held her famous fancy-dress ball on March 26, 1883, the most elaborate social event so far planned for Mr. McAllister's Four Hundred.



GROVER CLEVELAND (1837-1908)

Oil portrait by Hassack

Gift of George A. Zabriskie, 1937

Hamilton Fish, the First Vice-President, who had already served as President, 1867-1869, refused to run again because of age—he was then 75 years old. Of course everyone remembered Mr. Schell's anger at the Society for defeating him and electing DePeyster, 1873-1882, and his consequent absence from their meetings during that period. In order to heal the breach, he was elected on January 2, 1883, and promptly took the chair at the next meeting though he was in his 71st year and could not hope to be a very effective

leader. In fact, he only presided at seven meetings during his fourteen months in office and died March 27th, 1884, leaving the administration of the Society, for the most part, in the hands of Benjamin H. Field, Second Vice-President. It is probable that Mr. Schell never quite forgave the Society for its earlier preference for Mr. DePeyster, for, though a very rich man, he left us only \$5,000 in his will.

However, the Society was in a flourishing condition still, with a balance of over \$4,000 on hand at the beginning of 1883, an income of \$9,000, expenses of \$7,000, and special funds totalling nearly \$69,000. The 75 new members, out of a total of nearly 2,000 of all classes, included Governor Grover Cleveland; and the speakers were headed by the well-known historian, John Bach McMaster, who spoke on "New York in 1783," and John Jay who was the orator for the Society's celebration of the Centennial of the Evacuation of New York by the British, his subject being "The Peace Negotiations of 1783." This address, part of a city-wide celebration, took place at the Academy of

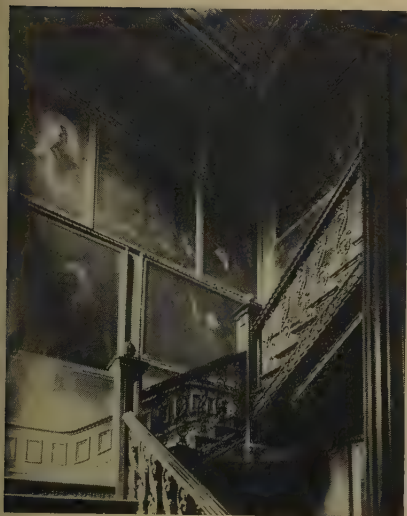
Music to the accompaniment of H. B. Dodworth's band, as we know from the latter's letter accompanying his bill for services. The celebration is more fully discussed in our chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners*. The last interesting event of these not-too-exciting years was the laying of the cornerstone of the Statue of Liberty at which, on August 5, 1884, our officers were present.

In these few months the library of about 100,000 titles profited by the gift of the 14,000 personal, business, and professional papers of the Alexander and Rutherford families and between eight and nine hundred books, pamphlets, and newspapers, all the gift of Mr. Lewis M. Rutherford. This fine collection, of New Jersey and New York manuscripts of the eighteenth century, included the papers of William Alexander (Lord Stirling), Surveyor-General and Revolutionary War officer; James Alexander, Attorney-General of New Jersey and Surveyor-General of New York and New Jersey; John and Walter Rutherford. From other sources we also received some important newspaper files, including the *New-York Gazette*, 1759-1760, 1768-1771, and the *Daily Gazette* for 1791.

Feature articles in the New York papers of this period described our building as "A Storehouse of the Past"²⁴ and as containing "the finest gallery of paintings and the most remarkable collection of Egyptian antiquities in the country." The crowded condition of our building was again emphasized in the same article which said:

The lack of proper accommodations in the Society's present quarters is well illustrated in the picture gallery. Many choice paintings are badly hung where it is impossible to get a good light upon them except at night with the gallery well lighted [by gas]; but as the building is closed, except on special occasions, at six o'clock in the evening this does not help the casual visitor. This is a great pity, as art students can find no opportunity in this country for studying the old masters like that afforded in this gallery, which might also be made an important factor in the education of the taste of the public in general in this respect.

[Another writer speaks of the painting collection as being] of great interest and educational value in a country without a collection of early



PICTURES ON ILL-LIT STAIRCASE

In the Society's old building

masters capable of illustrating the gradual development of the history of painting. No matter what may be said of the collection [*some had claimed that it contained few originals, which of course is not true*], or of individual pictures in it, it is the only one of old masters in this country worthy of the slightest consideration, to which the student could turn for an historical knowledge of his art, or for technical instruction. [*Continuing with a discussion of the overcrowded condition of the galleries, the author says:*] The building of the Historical Society was not intended for displaying a large collection of paintings. Their only appropriate rooms for the purpose are two small galleries with sky-

lights, which accommodate about one-fifth of the pictures they now have. The other four-fifths are distributed about in dark corridors, galleries and corners, where for want of light they cannot be satisfactorily examined, even during the sunniest days of the year.²⁵

There was a steady and urgent demand on the part of the members, the press, and the public for a new and adequate home for the Society's collections and this stirred the Building Committee to more determined action. By the time we had a proper place to show our really important collection of European paintings, other specialized art museums had far outstripped us in this field and our old collection of between six and seven hundred European paintings of all periods, many of them by great masters, was forgotten by art students who are constant visitors to the great art galleries with which our country is now blessed. However, not a few specialists have found their way to our building over the years and have been amazed at the wealth of important Continental art still to be found on our walls and in our storerooms.

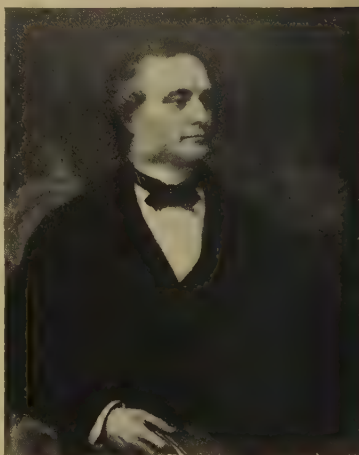
KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

BENJAMIN HAZARD FIELD (1814-1893)

SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENT (1885-1886)

Benjamin Hazard Field, merchant and philanthropist, was born at Yorktown, Westchester County, New York, educated at his uncle's North Salem Academy and went into business with another uncle in New York City, becoming his partner in 1832 and successor in 1838. A very successful business man, he accumulated a fortune much of which he used for the promotion of worthy causes. He was connected in an official capacity with several banks, the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the New York Dispensary, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Home for Incurables at Fordham (President from its inception until his death), Roosevelt Hospital, the Sheltering Arms of the Children's Fold, Green Wood Cemetery, the American Museum of Natural History, the American Geographical Society, the New York Free Circulating Library, the Mercantile Library Association, the St. Nicholas Society, and the St. Nicholas Club.

In spite of his many other interests, Mr. Field, who joined our Society in 1844 and became a life member in 1850, found time to serve loyally as a member of the Executive Committee, 1849-1893; as Treasurer, 1860-1877; as Second Vice-President, 1878-1884; and as President, 1885-1886, when he refused renomination because of age, being then 72 years old. He was very active in raising the funds for the erection of the Second Avenue building of the Society. As the Minutes state, "Mr. Field was most regular in his attendance and ever active in promoting the objects and welfare of this ancient institution." He was, indeed, for he is probably the only President in the history of the Society who never missed a meeting while he was in office. Mrs. Field left us his portrait by Daniel Huntington.



BENJAMIN HAZARD FIELD (1814-93)

Seventeenth President, 1885-1886

By Daniel Huntington, 1875

Bequest of the subject's wife, 1887

DURING the two years of Mr. Field's administration, our member, Grover Cleveland, was President of the United States, a depression was on and there were many serious strikes

and much labor unrest. However, they were years of progress, for the American Telegraph and Telephone Company was formed, the linotype machine invented, alternating current put in use, and Charles M. Hall, a student at Oberlin College, developed the process for the commercial production of aluminum. Also, on February 14, 1886, the first train-load of oranges was shipped from Los Angeles to the East and, on October 28th, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated.

Our First Vice-President, Hamilton Fish, having once more declined to run for President, Benjamin H. Field was elected January 6, 1885, a fitting tribute to his long and faithful service to the Society which, at the time of his death, was just short of half a century. During his brief presidency eighty members joined the Society, 34 of them for life. One was a Dakota cowboy, ranchman, and deputy sheriff who was to be heard from in later years. His name was Theodore Roosevelt.

Two famous Americanists were among the lecturers this season: Adolph F. Bandelier read a paper on "The Romantic School in American Archeology" (which we published); and Dr. Daniel G. Brinton addressed the members on "American Languages and Why We Should Study Them." When President U. S. Grant died, our building was draped in black in his memory and a delegation of our members attended his funeral in carriages supplied by President Field; and when the Statue of Liberty was dedicated we again sent a delegation to the ceremonies.

On December 1, 1885, our member, Mr. John S. Kennedy submitted a letter from a friend of the Society stating that there was deposited with the Central Trust Company the sum of \$100,000 to be used towards the erection of a new home for the Society if an additional \$300,000 could be raised within two years from November 30th. A newly invigorated Building Committee set to work but it was found impossible to raise such a sum within the time specified, so the generous friend, who later turned out to be Mrs. Robert L. Stuart, graciously extended the time by a year and reduced the amount to be raised to \$150,000.

The task of securing that amount by the specified date became a legacy to the next administration.

In the meantime many important gifts flowed in to crowd still further the storage facilities of the old building, but nothing worth while was turned away. A miniature of John Laurance (1750-1810), Judge Advocate-General during the Revolution, together with his watch, his commission signed by Washington and a packet of letters from Washington and others, came from his family; and, from other donors, oils of Egbert Benson's brothers, Robert and Henry, by Trumbull and Vanderlyn respectively and a portrait by the latter artist of Roger Strong, New York lawyer and alderman. The Library was given Sir William Johnson's set of the *State Trials of England*; an extra-illustrated set of Jared Sparks's *Life of Washington* to which 440 manuscripts, portraits, and views had been added; and an important and very rare collection of the earliest printed laws of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, from the earliest presses of those colonies; and another choice newspaper run, the *New York Evening Post*, 1744 through 1750, which is still the only important file of this rare paper. And the museum (and all of the small boys who were later to visit our naval exhibit) cheered the arrival of a model of a frigate made most skillfully of meat bones by the American prisoners at Dartmoor Prison during the War of 1812.

At the conclusion of one of the best articles written about the Society up to this time, Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, the eminent historian of New York, said: "The present varied collection of literary, historic, art, scientific, and antiquarian treasures of the Society . . . are but the beginnings of the great museum of the future. The monumental structure to be its proud home is beginning even now to take shape in the public mind."²³

How these dreams began to come true will appear in the account of the next administration. What a pleasure it would be to take Mrs. Lamb on a personally conducted tour of our present building which, in its turn, is becoming crowded and even now calls for the addition of another wing.

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

JOHN ALSOP KING (1817-1900)

EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENT (1887-1900)



JOHN ALSOP KING (1817-1900)

Eighteenth President, 1887-1900

By Robert Hinckley, 1892

Painted from life for the Society

Honorable John Alsop King, son of New York's Governor John Alsop King and grandson of Honorable Rufus King, Minister to Great Britain under four Presidents and a member of our Society at its second meeting in 1804, was born at Jamaica, Long Island, graduated from Harvard in 1835, became a New York lawyer for a few years, travelled much in Europe, became a Presidential Elector in 1872, and served in the State Senate in 1874-1875. Mr. King held many offices of trust in the Episcopal Church, in the New York Blind Asylum and other charities. He joined our Society in 1881 and was its President from 1887 until his death on November 21, 1900.⁷² We have his oil portraits by Hinckley and Trumbull.

DURING the fourteen years of President King's administration the nation had four Presidents: Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Cleveland, second term, and William McKinley. The population of the country jumped from nearly 3 million in 1890 to about 76 million in 1900, with most of the immigrants coming from southern Europe. The western country continued its rapid growth and the following Territories became states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah, the latter minus polygamy and plus woman suffrage. Oklahoma became a Territory and Hawaii was first a protectorate, then a republic, and finally, in 1900, a Territory. The Samoan Islands were divided between the United States and Germany and fortunately we took possession of Wake Island which no one else seemed to want. We fought and won the Spanish-American War in 1898, and secured Cuba,

Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines; we watched with keen interest the progress of the Boer War in South Africa, did our share to put down the Boxer Rebellion in China and rescue the foreign legations at Peking and, in 1900, inaugurated the Open Door Policy for unobstructed foreign trade with China. We had another serious panic in 1893 with four years of hard times, strikes and labor unrest. The Sherman Anti-Trust Act became a law in 1890, making it possible to attempt the control of such trusts as the American Sugar Refining Company which became a monopoly in 1891. The year 1897 began ten years of prosperity with the Klondike Gold Rush.

In 1892 we could talk with Chicago by telephone and the next year the Windy City held the World's Columbian Exposition in spite of the depression; in 1899, bananas were no longer a luxury when the United Fruit Company was organized; and the next year we lost our fear of yellow fever when Major Walter Reed discovered that the mosquito was the carrier of the disease and found a way to control it in Cuba, the Canal Zone and elsewhere.

American mechanical genius was at work in spite of depression, war, and pestilence and so we had our first successful trolley line in Richmond in 1887; Eastman began the manufacture of film Kodaks; safety bicycles with wheels of equal size were invented; in 1892 Charles E. Duryea gave us the first American automobile and the next year the first Ford car was built and, in 1900, the first auto show was held in New York City. In 1895 Edison invented the kinetoscope and in 1896 his vitascope was showing motion pictures at Koster & Bial's Music Hall in New York, thus beginning the movie industry.

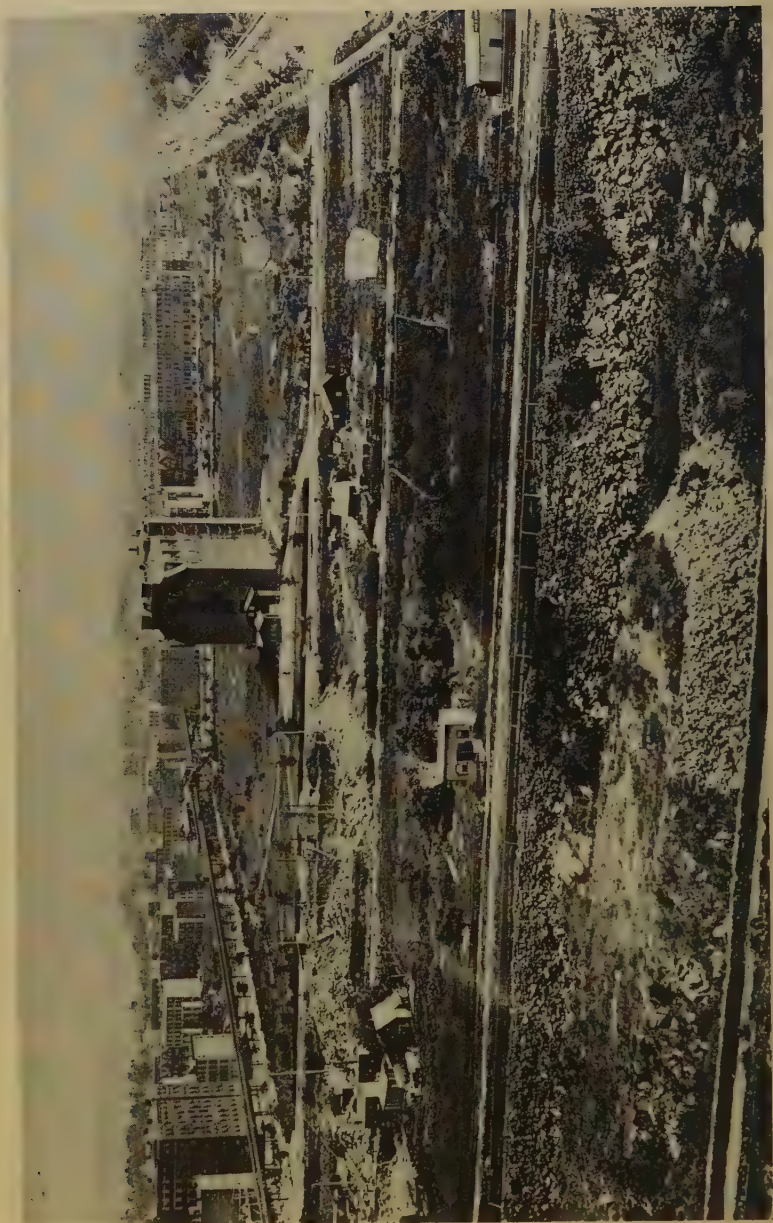
The year 1896 gave the nation Rural Free Delivery of mail; the X-Ray was introduced into the country from Germany; Robert G. Ingersoll lectured on "Why I am an Agnostic"; and Billy Sunday began his work as an evangelist and thousands of sinners hit the sawdust trail.

Here in New York we had the unsurpassed Blizzard of 1888

and the following year a grand celebration of the Centennial of Washington's Inauguration and the round-the-world trip of "Nellie Bly" (Elizabeth Cochrane) who was sent by the *World* to beat Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days," which she did in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes and 14 seconds. In 1890 there was a stock market panic on Wall Street; in 1892 the United States Immigration Station moved from Castle Garden to Ellis Island; Samuel Ward McAllister chose the "Four Hundred" who were to be invited to Mrs. William Astor's ball; and the cornerstone of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine was laid. Partly as a result of Reverend Charles Parkhurst's exposures of corruption in our municipal government, the New York Senate's Lexow Committee cleaned up the Tammany administration in 1895 and put in a reform government with Theodore Roosevelt as a picturesque but honest and efficient Police Commissioner. The same year the New York Public Library was founded and William Randolph Hearst bought the *New York Journal* which, with the *World*, began the "funnies" with the "Yellow Kid" which gave the name to his "yellow journalism." In 1897 Grant's Tomb was dedicated by President McKinley and the following year "Greater New York" was created with a population of three and a half million. And, to celebrate the victories of the Spanish-American War we had the great Dewey Parade on September 29, 1899.

Mr. Field having refused renomination because of age, John Alsop King was elected President of the Society on January 4, 1887, and served for fourteen years. He was one of our most loyal and devoted presidents for he missed only five meetings up to the time of his final illness. Over 500 new members joined the Society during his administration; we lived comfortably within our income and were able to print our annual volume of the Publication Fund series each year. Knowing all too well the pressing need for a new building, his every effort was directed to the raising of the funds necessary for that purpose.

The building drive got off to a good start when, late in 1887,



SITE OF OUR PROPOSED NEW BUILDING ON CENTRAL PARK WEST, c. 1887

Cornelius Vanderbilt gave \$10,000 to add to Mrs. Robert L. Stuart's conditional gift of \$100,000, plus the \$50,000 nest egg already in the Building Fund. Then the Society really went to work and finally secured the additional \$90,000 necessary to make up the amount to be raised within the year stipulated by Mrs. Stuart. So, in January 1889, the Building Fund stood at \$250,000 and the grateful Society voted its thanks to President King and John S. Kennedy of the Executive Committee who had been mainly responsible for the success of the drive.

To facilitate the building plans, the Legislature enacted a law on June 13, 1889, authorizing the Society to sell its old home and exempting the new building from sale under execution. The act also allowed the Society to own property with an income above operating expenses of \$100,000. A committee had been examining available sites and finally chose one on Central Park West, between 76th and 77th Streets which, on February 24, 1891, the Society voted to purchase for \$286,500, and a special committee was appointed to raise funds for the erection of the building. In January of the following year it was publicly announced that the donor of the initial gift of \$100,000 was Mrs. Robert L. Stuart. However, times were hard, very little money came in and, when the panic of 1893 hit, the Building Committee was discharged because of the "present unfavorable condition of business affairs."

By April 5, 1898, the country had recovered somewhat from the panic and a new and very strong Building Committee was appointed, consisting of J. Pierpont Morgan, John S. Kennedy, Robert Schell, George W. Vanderbilt, and the Very Reverend Eugene A. Hoffman, D.D. Money was still tight, however, because of the war with Spain, but by the beginning of 1900 there was over \$17,000 in the new Building Fund and by the end of the year over \$42,500 had been collected, including a gift of \$5,000 from Mr. King and a bequest of \$25,000 from the Society's Treasurer, Robert Schell (brother of the former Presi-

dent) who had just died. Then, on November 21, 1900, President King died and his grateful associates spread on the minutes of the December meeting this tribute: "To his untiring efforts the Society owes the magnificent site selected for its future home, and it was the dream and hope of his last years that a building worthy of this venerable Society might be erected thereon."

The city's newspapers gave generous support to the campaign for a new building. In 1887 the *Post* made this comment:

It will be generally hoped that the Trustees of the Historical Society will succeed in securing sufficient contributions to enable them to erect a fitting home for the collections in their possession, which they really hold in trust for the benefit of the people of this city and state.²⁸

In an unidentified clipping of the 1890's which gives, in an interview with William Kelby the Librarian, an interesting picture of the treasures of the old Second Avenue building, the writer comments on the fact that, whereas the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History are freely open to the public, the Historical Society is restricted and "members of the Society only have the privilege of introducing visitors by their cards or by a note." Commenting on this unfortunate situation, Librarian Kelby said:

The newspapers sometimes shout at us: 'close corporation,' and talk about our preventing the city from enjoying a glimpse of our collections. The truth is we cannot do otherwise. We are overcrowded in our quarters here. Our passageways are small and narrow. The galleries, where antiquities and pictures are, have become choked by books added to our constantly growing library, which now contains 100,000 volumes. Our income at present is very limited; and we cannot, even if other conditions allowed general admission, afford the tax in hired watchmen and other help a public museum implies. Some day this will be changed.

An article by Sophia Antoinette Walker in the *Independent*,²⁹ continuing Mr. Kelby's plaint, described the situation this way:

It [the Society] has put all its money in a lot . . . where it is hoped some day to erect a building. Meantime it cannot afford a railing to keep

HIDDEN TREASURES.

Few Know the Inaccessible Resources of the New York Historical Society.

COLLECTIONS OF PRICELESS VALUE. But No One Can See Them Without Having a Special Permit.

Rooms Too Small for Display, and Society Too Poor to Put Up Its Projected Building.

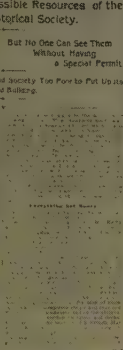


THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, which has been in existence for more than a century, is one of the most important and valuable institutions in the city. It is a repository of the most precious and interesting relics of our past, and its collections are of priceless value. Yet, for many years, the public has been unable to see these treasures, and the society has been unable to put up a building large enough to display them.

The society's collections are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public. They include the most valuable and interesting relics of our past, and they are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public. The society's collections are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

The society's collections are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public. They include the most valuable and interesting relics of our past, and they are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

The society's collections are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public. They include the most valuable and interesting relics of our past, and they are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.



A Budget of Good Things

The Newest Books.

THE NEWEST BOOKS. A budget of good things, a collection of the most interesting and valuable books of the day. These books are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

THE NEWEST BOOKS. A budget of good things, a collection of the most interesting and valuable books of the day. These books are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

THE NEWEST BOOKS. A budget of good things, a collection of the most interesting and valuable books of the day. These books are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

HERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING EXCERPTS FROM THE MOST RECENT OFFERINGS OF FOREIGN AND AMERICAN PUBLISHERS.

HERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING EXCERPTS FROM THE MOST RECENT OFFERINGS OF FOREIGN AND AMERICAN PUBLISHERS. These excerpts are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

HERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING EXCERPTS FROM THE MOST RECENT OFFERINGS OF FOREIGN AND AMERICAN PUBLISHERS. These excerpts are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

HERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING EXCERPTS FROM THE MOST RECENT OFFERINGS OF FOREIGN AND AMERICAN PUBLISHERS. These excerpts are of such a nature that they are of great interest to the public.

back people who see works of art with their fingers and umbrellas, nor glasses for priceless pictures like the Jan Van Eyck [*The Crucifixion* from the Bryan Collection] and the Velasquez [seven attributed to him in the catalogue]; nor even a guardian to see that they are not carried off.

A fine feature article in the *Herald* adds its comment:

Apart from a very limited number of persons interested in antiquarian lore, the existence of this great collection has been unrecognized, and when the time comes that it can be worthily displayed, the people of New York will marvel how it has happened that treasures so worthy of civic pride have so long remained hidden from popular view. By some strange freak of progress this great museum has remained, as it were stranded by the upward current of the city's growth and has for many years lain forgotten and neglected in what was once the centre of wealth and culture.

In 1900 the new building of the New York Public Library was under construction, though it was not opened until 1911, and its completion would mean that the quarters of the old Astor and Lenox libraries would be available for other purposes. The Society looked longingly at the Lenox Library building on Fifth Avenue between 70th and 71st Streets and approached the Public Library trustees with the hope of securing it for its new home instead of the Central Park West site. A hopeful article on the subject appeared in the *Tribune*³⁰ but the two boards of trustees could not come to terms and the Lenox property passed to Henry C. Frick who built his home there in 1914. Remodelled it was opened in 1935 as The Frick Collection, one of the choicest small public art museums of the country.

Since the northern growth of the city had left our building in an inaccessible location the attendance at meetings fell off for a time but in 1900 a series of lectures was planned, each delivered by a recognized authority, on the history of the five boroughs of the city. Attendance immediately trebled and interest in the Society and its hopes for a new building was greatly increased. Other eminent speakers included: Daniel G. Brinton who lectured on "American Aboriginal Poetry"; Ainsworth R. Spof-

ford, Librarian of Congress, on "The Early History of the Press of the United States"; and Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard, on "John Cabot." The two big celebrations during Mr. King's administration were the centennial of Washington's inauguration, staged by the city with the help of the Society in 1889, and the two-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of printing in New York which was held at the Cotton Exchange on April 8, 1893, both of which are described in the chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners*.

In spite of the fact that there was supposed to be no more room in the old building, the collections grew enormously and many outstanding treasures were secured. They include: Lord Cornbury's Commission as Governor of New York, signed by his cousin, Queen Anne, in 1702 (we have since secured his famous portrait in which he is dressed as a woman); the commonplace book of Judge Samuel Sewall of Massachusetts, 1695; perhaps the earliest manuscript survey of the Hudson Valley, by William Bond, 1721; a collection of architectural drawings of John McComb, Jr., architect of the City Hall; the Alexander McDougall Papers, including over 4,000 military letters and documents and fifteen orderly books of the Revolutionary War (we now own about 150 orderly books of all wars, certainly one of the largest collections in the country); nearly 600 legal and family papers of our first President, Egbert Benson, and his brother Robert; over 1,500 letters of John W. Taylor, 1813-1833, covering the period when he was a Member of Congress and Speaker of the House; the Colonel Thomas F. De Voe papers in 19 volumes, 1837-1883, relating to the New York Militia and his services as New York City Superintendent of Markets; and the large and important collection of DePeyster and Watts papers, 1682-1870.

Printed material also came in large quantities, including hundreds of Colonial and Revolutionary books, pamphlets, and broadsides; two large Civil War collections; a good run of the very rare Fishkill *New-York Packet*, 1779-1783; a complete file

of the semi-weekly *New-York Evening Post*, 1840-1886; the *Richmond Whig*, 1824-1888, and *Richmond Enquirer*, 1830-1875, which together totalled 331 volumes. Two precious Bradford imprints were also secured: George Keith's *Truths Advanced*, 1694 (one of the earliest products of his press); and the *Mohawk Prayer Book*, 1715.

Equally rich additions to the art collection were received, of which we will name only a few: four studies in oil by Asher B. Durand; his portrait by Trumbull; portraits of Lord Ashburton and Daniel Webster by Healy; John Jay by Oliver Lay, after Stuart; the very important portrait of Benjamin Franklin by Duplessis; John Alsop King by Hinckley; Emperor Maximilian of Mexico and his wife Carlota; President Zachary Taylor; Captain Daniel Delavan by Trumbull; Sir William Johnson; Mrs. Augusta Jay by Gerret Duyckinck; George P. Morris, poet and editor, by Elliott; Myron Holley by Ames; and, as additions to the museum, the following relics of Major General Horatio Gates: the Congressional gold medal awarded him for the victory at Saratoga, his Revolutionary War sword, his wedding ring and gold sleeve buttons, his diploma as *Doctor Civilis* from Harvard, and his certificate of membership in the Society of the Cincinnati signed by Washington. The museum was also given a set of United States silver medals issued to the Indians in 1796, formerly owned by Honorable Rufus King; and the representative Caroline Phelps Stokes collection of New England colonial lighting devices.

These years were saddened by the death of President King, Treasurer Schell, Librarians George H. Moore and William Kelby (who was succeeded by his brother Robert H. Kelby), and Andrew Warner, who began his career as a clerk in John Pintard's counting house and was our Recording Secretary for half a century. The Society published memorials to all of them except Mr. Schell and owns oil portraits of all but Mr. Moore.

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

EUGENE AUGUSTUS HOFFMAN (1829-1902)

NINETEENTH PRESIDENT (1901-1902)



Since so many of our distinguished members have been clergymen, it was appropriate that, for the second time, we should elect a representative of the cloth to the presidency of our Society. Dean Hoffman was a native New Yorker, member of an old local family of wealth and distinction. He graduated from Rutgers in 1847, from Harvard in the following year, from the General Theological Seminary in 1851, and was ordained an Episcopal clergyman in 1853, passing the next 26 years as pastor of four churches. He was chosen Dean of the General Theological Seminary in 1879 and served the rest of his life, building it from a small and poor institution to one with an ample faculty, a group of new buildings and a greatly enlarged student body. He served without salary, since he was born to immense

EUGENE AUGUSTUS HOFFMAN (1829-1902)

Nineteenth President of the Society, 1901-1902

By Harry T. See, 1902

Painted from life for the Society

wealth. He had the distinction of giving his Seminary a Gutenberg Bible and (with Cornelius Vanderbilt) a collection of 1,100 Latin Bibles of great scholarly and monetary value. He held many high offices in the church, including that of Trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, towards the construction of which he gave both time, prestige, and money. His scholarship and leadership were recognized by the granting of honorary doctorates by eight institutions.

The Very Reverend Eugene Augustus Hoffman, D.D., LL.D., to give him his full title, joined our society as a life member in 1891, served as Foreign Corresponding Secretary from 1896 to 1900, and as President for a year and a half in 1901-1902, during which time he was also Chairman of the Building Committee. He gave \$10,000 towards the erection of the

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

present building, to which Mrs. Hoffman added \$2,000, his son Samuel Verplanck Hoffman \$5,500, and Mrs. Charles Frederick Hoffman, wife of a member of our Executive Committee, \$1000. In his will Dean Hoffman left the Society \$50,000. He died in office, June 17, 1902.³¹ We have his oil portrait by Harry T. See.

THE BRIEF period of Dean Hoffman's presidency began with William McKinley in the White House and when he was assassinated on September 6, 1901, Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt became one of our ablest and best-loved Presidents. He soon had on his hands the first great anthracite coal strike which he was instrumental in settling a few months later. The United States gave Cuba her independence and Congress authorized the President to dig the Panama Canal which he did with efficiency and dispatch and by so doing gave our defense establishment greater mobility. There was another Wall Street panic and more labor unrest but the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo was a success in spite of unsettled conditions. Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, and the other "muckrakers" were carrying on in *McClure's Magazine* and Carrie Nation was on the loose with her saloon-smashing hatchet. Here at home the Hall of Fame was dedicated and the Flatiron Building at Twenty-third Street was completed on an island of land once under consideration as a site for our headquarters, between Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and Twenty-second Street. The slang expression: "Twenty-three, skidoo!" is supposed to have originated from the attempts of the local constabulary stationed at this windiest New York corner to keep the loungers moving who congregated there in hopes of catching a glimpse of a trim ankle in those days when skirts were long, feminine legs were "limbs" and were seldom seen in public outside of a burlesque show.

President Hoffman took up with great vigor the campaign for the raising of funds for the erection of the new building of the Society. The general finances were in excellent shape with a balance above operating expenses of over \$7,000 on January 1, 1901, with special funds totalling \$85,000, and with over \$17,500

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

in the Building Fund. He appointed a new Building Committee on which he served as Chairman and appointed an auxiliary ladies' committee with Mrs. James M. Lawton as Chairman. On October 1st a committee examined sealed bids for building plans for the new structure and the contract was awarded to York and Sawyer for the erection of the central part of the building. The ladies' committee put on a series of teas for 1,000 guests which stimulated interest and brought in more money and more new members, about 175 during the two years, giving us a total of over 1,000.

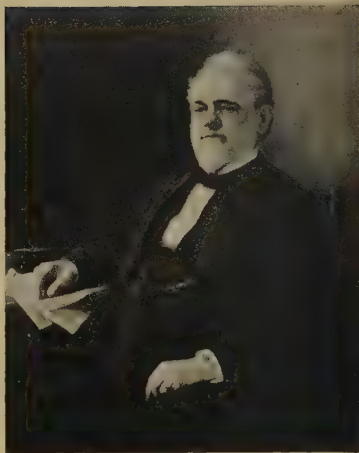
By May 1902 the Building Fund had grown to over \$126,000 when Archer M. Huntington offered \$20,000 if a like amount could be raised and the construction work begun at once. An anonymous gift of \$10,000 followed and the balance needed to make up the additional \$20,000 was given by Mrs. Hoffman and her children. To everyone's grief and dismay, President Hoffman died June 17, 1902. Ground was broken for the new building on



BREAKING GROUND FOR THE NEW BUILDING ON CENTRAL PARK WEST



CATHARINE A. DE PEYSTER
Miniature by G. E. Parks
Bequeathed by the subject, 1911



ROBERT SCHELL (1815-1900)
Oil painting by J. H. Dolph
Gift of his daughter-in-law, 1932

TWO BENEFACTORS OF THE BUILDING FUND

September 10th of that year by Samuel Verplanck Hoffman son of the late President, in a simple ceremony in which he was assisted by Dr. Sydney H. Carney, Jr., Secretary of the Building Committee; Robert H. Kelby, Librarian; and Philip Sawyer, one of the architects. By the end of the year the foundations were completed and the Building Fund contained over \$120,700. During the summer of 1902 the Society also learned of a bequest of a considerable amount of local real estate from the Misses Cornelia Beekman DePeyster and Catherine Augusta DePeyster, given in memory of their parents. The sale of the property eventually netted the Society more than \$607,000 which was not used for the construction of the building but was set up as the William Axtell DePeyster and Mary Beckman DePeyster Memorial Fund.

The very important papers of Ambassador Rufus King, 1786-1826, filling 37 volumes and 36 boxes, were given in 1902 and, four years later, his magnificent library of 5,247 volumes on American history, containing many of great rarity, with additions by his grandson, Dr. Charles Ray King (eldest brother of

our President John Alsop King), was given by their family. We also received some 300 Timothy Pickering papers, 1777-1824; the Leggett Family Papers, 1657-1746, relating to upper New York City; John Peter Zenger's rare and important *New York Weekly Journal*, 1739-1751; and the only perfect copy known of Leeds' *American Almanack* for 1734, printed by William Bradford. We also secured the important oil portraits of Mr. and Mrs. William Walton by John Wollaston; of David Grim, New York merchant and antiquarian, by Waldo; of Zophar Mills, merchant and volunteer fireman of New York, by Carpenter; of William Sidney Mount, eminent painter, by Carpenter, after Elliott; and of our late Librarian, William Kelby, by Hinckley.

Notable in the series of addresses before the Society were those by Charles Francis Adams on "Before and After the Treaty of Washington," 1901; by General James Grant Wilson on "John Pintard"; President Hoffman's "Memorial of the Honorable John Alsop King," 1901; and Reverend William R. Huntington's "Address Commemorative of Eugene Augustus Hoffman," 1902, all of which were published by the Society.

As soon as there was some hope that, at long last, the Historical Society would be able to build a new home, the people and newspapers of the city became greatly interested and there were numerous feature articles telling of the chief treasures of its museum, from Ben Franklin's cane to the mummified bulls, and the architect's sketch of the front of the proposed building was reproduced again and again. A long and enthusiastic editorial in the *New York Times* for March 9, 1901 said in part:

Every person interested in the rich historic interest of New York City will wish the best success for the labors of this committee [to secure funds for the erection of the new building] . . . With a transfer of its home to the lower part of Central Park West there would inevitably come not only the larger rooms which a new building would supply, but renewed activity in the use of books and the attendance upon meetings and lectures. With proper facilities for the display of interesting objects and greater convenience of access, throngs of people would enter its doors where now but few stray in. Indeed, one may contemplate with interesting pleasure the additions which would come to its member-



AUDITORIUM OF THE SOCIETY'S OLD BUILDING

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

ship, the historical students who would spend their time in its alcoves, and the crowds of listeners who would gather to hear its lectures. . . .

The project certainly ought to possess interest with everyone who knows anything whatever of the splendid history of which this island has been the centre . . . events that have been potent in the life and history of this continent and which should become familiar in the recollections of every American citizen.

Another editorial in the same paper for May 11, 1901, in commenting on the nomination of a ladies' committee said:

This proposition met with unanimous response and, although it was a decided surprise to the older members, they regarded it as one of the most advanced indications of the more liberal policy to be pursued by the society when it secures its new building. Never before in the ninety-seven years of the New York Historical Society's existence have women been asked to assist in the official workings of the society in any way.

Every member who has been a regular attendant of the monthly meetings during the last two years has been visibly impressed with the increased attendance of women . . . This enlarged attendance must mean a real interest in New York history, and the fact is fraught with large possibilities for the future of the society. Women have the same opportunities for membership as men, but the number has never been large. Among the thousand and odd members at present the women number thirty-five. [*They numbered 175 in 1953.*] Mrs. James M. Lawton was named as Chairman of the auxiliary committee . . . [She] is the daughter of the late General Robert Anderson, who was in command of Fort Sumter when fired upon at the opening of the Civil War.

Then the big day came and the *World* of December 14, 1901, described it as follows:

To gather together the old families of Manhattan in the delightful social interchange of other days, the New York Historical Society yesterday threw open its staid old building, at the corner of Second Avenue and Eleventh Street, for a reception and tea.

The flippancies of "Floradora" ["Tell me, pretty maiden, are there any more at home like you?"] floating up from the [Hungarian] orchestra concealed in the main gallery awoke the mummies on the staircase from a dream of ancient Egypt to the unlooked-for invasion. Silks and satins, the fripperies of twentieth century fashion, swept by. With a shudder that penetrated to the tip of his bandaged tail the Sacred Bull (the rarest mummy of all) heard himself dubbed "a nice old thing" by an irreverent young person in a picture hat. Antique portraits were quizzed by latter-day critics, ancient tomes turned by irreverent, if

admiring, fingers. The whole museum trembled beneath the shock of a modernity somewhat sadly out of place.

The whole scheme of hospitality was delightfully unorthodox. Five thousand invitations had been issued and detachments of guests were constantly arriving. Reverend Dr. Eugene A. Hoffman, the President; Dr. Sydney H. Carney, Jr., John J. Tucker, Robert H. Kelby and other of the officers were present to greet them.

The Ladies' Auxiliary, headed by Mrs. James M. Lawton, distributed themselves on the different floors to aid in the reception. Mrs. James A. Glover, looking in a black velvet gown as if she had stepped down from one of the fine old canvases, was in the reading-rooms. Mrs. Daniel M. Stimson, Mrs. F. Robert Schell and Mrs. Hoffman also stood near the main door.

Miss Mary Rhinelander King, Mrs. William B. Beekman and Miss Hortense A. Carney waylaid those in the galleries above to do the honors of the collection.

Tea was served in the basement refectory. Slabs with broken inscriptions lined the walls; the damp chill was banished by a blaze of light, gorgeous roses defied sepulchral reflection, and Mrs. Frederic De Peyster and Miss J. J. Beekman poured tea.

NOTES

¹ *The Early Political History of New York*, 1865; *Memoir of Rip Van Dam*, 1865; *The Moral and Intellectual Influence of Libraries upon Social Progress*, 1866; *William III as a Reformer*, 1874; *A Biographical Sketch of Robert R. Livingston*, 1876; *Representative Men of the English Revolution*, 1876; *A Memoir of William Henry Guest*, 1878; and *The Life and Administration of Richard, Earl of Bellomont*, 1879.

² There is another copy at the Massachusetts Historical Society and one in the Library of Congress. — *The Voice of the Old Frontier*. By R.W.G. Vail, 1949. No. 152.

³ "Thomas J. Bryan" by John E. Stillwell, in our *Quarterly*, January 1918, p. 103.

⁴ *Catalogue of The Bryan Gallery of Christian Art, from the Earliest Masters to the Present Time*. New York, 1853. 16 p., 229 titles, 8vo. Original at New York Society Library, photostat copy at NYHS.

Companion to the Bryan Gallery of Christian Art: Containing Critical Descriptions of the Pictures, and Biographical Sketches of the Painters; with an Introductory Essay, and Index. By Richard Grant White. New York, 1853. xviii, 134 p., 230 titles 8vo.

⁵ Henry T. Tuckerman, in *Society's Minutes*, June 7, 1870.

⁶ "An Old Picture Gallery," by David Edward Cronin, in *New York World* August 18, 1878.

⁷ *The Evolution of a Life*. By Major Seth Eyland [David Edward Cronin]. New York, 1884, p. 37-59.

⁸ The Bryan Collection is separately listed in the Society's published art catalogue of 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1877, 1881, 1887, 1903, and 1915, the latter with 15 plates from the Bryan Collection.

⁹ Printed in part in *Putnam's Magazine*, January 1869, p. 49-59.

¹⁰ William Niblo died in New York, August 21, 1878, aged eighty-nine. In our *Minutes* for October 2, 1878, George H. Moore read a memorial notice in which

THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

he recited Mr. Niblo's honorable position in the community and said that "few men could remember so much or talk so well of the men and events of his time." He continued as follows:

"No one who enjoyed the conversation of Mr. Niblo in his ripe and sunny old age can fail to regret that the light of his clear and intelligent memory has gone out, and with it great stores of recollections of Old New York have vanished forever. He knew its streets and its people as it grew from a small town to a great city. He heard its dull and quiet hum of business hours gradually deepening into the continuous and mighty roar which now hardly ceases even for a small fraction of the night. He saw the modest array of citizens in the streets, when every man knew his place and his neighbor, finally losing itself in the great waves of population surging to and fro through avenues for the movement of a million of people struggling in the fierce contests of business and the wild pursuit of pleasure." We can but wonder what Mr. Niblo and his younger friend Mr. Moore would have thought of our present city of eight million!

¹¹ *A Memorial of Francis L. Hawks. By Evert A. Duyckinck. An Address given in 1867, and Including a Catalogue of the Books in the Hawks-Niblo Collection in the New-York Historical Society Library.* New York, 1871. 166 p., illus. The Catalogue was also issued separately.

The Society owns a marble bust and a marble bas-relief of Francis L. Hawks, both by David Richards.

¹² "New Netherland," in *Proceedings* for 1844; and "On the Sources of Some of the Early Settlements in the State of New York," in same for 1848.

¹³ Enlarged from a paper before the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in 1859 and expanded as *A Memoir of Mrs. Susanna Rowson*, Albany, 1870. 212 p., port., 8vo. (R.W.G. Vail: *Susanna Haswell Rowson, the Author of Charlotte Temple*, 1933, p. 41.).

¹⁴ "Washingtoniana of The New-York Historical Society" by Dorothy C. Barck, in our *Quarterly*, January, 1932, p. 111, with photograph.

¹⁵ *New York Times*, April 5, 1871.

¹⁶ *Newark Daily Advertiser*, April 15, June 9, 1871.

¹⁷ George H. Moore's eloquent tribute to Mr. Schell, taken from our Minutes, appears in *Memoir of the Hon. Augustus Schell*. By Francis Schell, 1885.

¹⁸ "The Globe of Ulpian" by B. F. De Costa: A paper read before our Society, December 4, 1877, and published in the *Magazine of American History*, January 1879, p. 17-35, map., illus.

¹⁹ For biographical sketch and portrait, see under Eleventh President, p. 122 herein.

²⁰ *Magazine of American History*, of which he was editor, January 1877, p. 61.

²¹ Same, April 1877, p. 263.

²² Same, June, 1877, p. 395.

²³ For biographical sketch and portrait, see under Fourteenth President, p. 139 herein.

²⁴ *New York Telegram*, February 1883.

²⁵ *New York Evening Post*, December 26, 1884.

²⁶ "An Illustrated Chapter of Beginnings. The Founder, Presidents, Homes, and Treasures of The New York Historical Society," by Martha J. Lanib, in *Magazine of American History*, September 1886, p. 209-244, illus.

²⁷ *Memorial of The Hon. John Alsop King, Eighteenth President of The New York Historical Society. By The Very Reverend Eugene A. Hoffman. Read before the Society, February 5, 1901.* New York, 1901. 27 p., port., 8vo.

²⁸ *New York Evening Post*, August 10, 1887.

²⁹ *Independent*, October 15, 1896.

³⁰ *New York Daily Tribune*, November 21, 1900.

³¹ *Address Commemorative of Eugene Augustus Hoffman. By The Rev. William L. Huntington, Rector of Grace Church, New York. Read before The Society, December 2, 1902.* New York, 1903. 28 p., port., 8vo.



SAMUEL VERPLANCK HOFFMAN (1866-1942)
Painted from life for the Society by J. Carroll Beckwith, 1907

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY



SAMUEL VERPLANCK HOFFMAN (1866-1942)

TWENTIETH PRESIDENT (1903-1912)

He was born in Brooklyn, the son of President Eugene A. Hoffman, graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology with the degree of Mechanical Engineer in 1888; was a special student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, 1888-1889; studied astrophysics and chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, 1889, where he was a Student Assistant in Astronomy, 1892-1893, Fellow in Astronomy, 1893-1894, Fellow by Courtesy, 1894-1897. His business career was devoted to the management of his father's extensive real-estate holdings in New York City. He was a director of the North River Insurance Company; trustee of General Theological Seminary, 1903-1942; and member of the Seventh Regiment of New York National Guard as well as many athletic, social, and patriotic clubs and societies. His chief hobby was the collecting of astrolabes, eight of which he bequeathed to the Society to which his son Eugene A. Hoffman later added the gift of the rest of his collection, the largest in America, and his library of 200 volumes on the subject. The Hoffman collection of 46 astrolabes and sun dials, plus others in our museum, is described by H. Maxson Holloway, and the famous astrolabe used in the exploration of Canada by Champlain is written up by President George A. Zabriskie.¹

Mr. Hoffman joined our Society as a Life Member in 1901 and succeeded his father as President in 1903, serving until November 6, 1912, when he resigned because of ill health. He was a member of the Executive Committee (later the Board of Trustees) from 1903 to 1912 and from 1919 until his death and served as its Chairman from 1920 to 1937 and is Honorary President from 1937 until his death. In 1933 the Executive Committee awarded Mr. Hoffman its gold medal for "Distinguished Service." We have his oil portraits by Beckwith and Schmidt.

THIS WAS one of the best ten years of our nation's history. First we had Teddy Roosevelt for President, then Taft, and then Wilson. Oklahoma and Arizona became States; Panama declared her independence of Colombia and so made things easier for the Panama Canal; China became a republic and was congratulated by Congress; there was plenty of new labor available for our rapidly expanding factories and farms, for in the peak year of 1907 nearly 1,300,000 immigrants entered the

country and in 1910 the migration of Negroes to the North set in and, within a twenty-year period, a million were seeking the better-paying jobs of the northern States. The population rose to nearly 92,000,000. The Russo-Japanese War was fought and finally ended through President Roosevelt's mediation; cables were laid from San Francisco to Hawaii and the Philippines, making it easier for us to keep in touch with these important dependencies; Roosevelt sent the Pacific Fleet on a round-the-world cruise to show the Japanese and other interested nations that we were a mighty sea power and could go where we pleased.

Roosevelt protected the health of our people with the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act. By 1910 there was prohibition in eight states; American progress and prosperity were advertised by the holding of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, the Jamestown Exposition, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle, and the great Hudson-Fulton Celebration in New York, the latter in 1909. The sympathy and ready aid of our people went out to the citizens of San Francisco at the time of the earthquake and fire in 1906; and the nation mourned the 1,500 lives lost when the *Titanic* was sunk by an iceberg in 1912. Other headline news of a pleasanter sort included the sending of the first Marconi wireless message across the ocean in 1907; T.R.'s sailing for Africa to hunt big game ("I hope a lion bites him," said his political enemies); and Peary's discovery of the North Pole the same year of 1909. We also had our first Rotary Club, the Boy and Girl Scouts were organized and the F.B.I. established.

You could hail a taxi for the first time in 1907 and see *The Great Train Robbery*, the first movie with a story, put out by the Edison Studio in 1903. In the realm of mechanical advancement we had the beginning of aviation when the Wright Brothers took to the air at Kitty Hawk in 1903. That year the Ford Motor Company was organized and we had the first "Model T" offered at \$850.50 in 1908, heralding a car for every family, better roads,

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

the end of provincialism, the beginning of motorized transportation, easier farming, and a ghastly death toll on the roads. Lee De Forest's invention of the vacuum tube amplifier in 1906 led the way to the radio and television industries, a nation-wide appreciation of music, drama, baseball, the antics of people in the public eye and the vocal and visual merits of consumer goods ad nauseam. But they ended isolation, kept families home at night, educated everybody, were a boon to the shut-ins and a bitter blow to the movie industry. Nearer home, Charles Evans Hughes was elected Governor of New York; the first New York subway was opened in 1904; tunnels were dug under the Hudson and East Rivers; New York saw its first airplane flight when Wilbur Wright flew over river and harbor at the Hudson-Fulton Celebration in 1909; St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Woolworth Tower—the "Cathedral of Commerce"—were dedicated. It was quite a decade!

Samuel V. Hoffman inherited his father's unfinished task of building a home for our Society, a task to which he devoted himself for ten fruitful years. In our official notice of his death² his great services were admirably summed up as follows:

During almost forty years The New-York Historical Society has had no better friend and more interested officer than he whose help in many ways built the Society's collections of the museum and library. He was President during the construction of the central portion of the building on Central Park West to which both he and his father contributed most liberally and solicited funds for its erection. In 1903 the cornerstone was laid with Mr. Hoffman serving as Chairman of the proceedings. Thereafter he donated the furniture for the library and carried through to completion all the plans of our central building. To enumerate all the gifts to the museum and library which it was his constant aim to gather and present would assume the proportions of a large printed catalogue. His name appears as donor on many principal accessions during the past forty years. In 1933 the Board of Trustees awarded Mr. Hoffman its gold medal for "Distinguished Service" of which but three have been struck.

The Hoffman family gave a total of \$94,500 towards the erection of the new building. In addition to this, Mr. Samuel

V. Hoffman, during his Presidency, gave over \$48,000 for the purchase of manuscripts, books, prints, and paintings and continued to give most generously for the rest of his life. In November of 1912 he wrote to say that, because of ill health, he would not be a candidate for reelection. It was no wonder that his health had broken for, within a few months, he had lost his mother, his sister, and his young daughter. The Society sent him a sad but affectionate message of condolence.

In spite of the fact that over five hundred new members came in during this ten-year period, the total membership continued to hover around a thousand. In 1903 two new types of membership were added: Patrons who had given \$5,000 or its equivalent in gifts to the collections; and Fellows who had given \$1,000. The Patrons, if they wished, could designate successors in perpetuity. The following year those who had given like amounts to the Building Fund were also elected Patrons or Fellows.³ In 1912 Third and Fourth Vice-Presidents were added to the list of officers. From 1903 through 1906 the lectures were devoted to various phases of the history and antiquities of New York City but after the latter date they covered the whole country with an occasional travelogue, generally illustrated with lantern slides, on some out-of-the-way corner of the globe.

When Mr. Hoffman was elected to succeed his father as President on January 6, 1903, he had before him the foundations for the central portion of the new building but only about \$100,000 in sight for its erection. But what his father had commenced he was determined to see through to its completion. At least the Society could begin by laying the cornerstone and in that way get the campaign under way.

So they celebrated the Society's ninety-ninth anniversary on November 17th, through the courtesy of their good neighbor the American Museum of Natural History at whose building they assembled and marched across to the site of their own new building. Here the members and guests, including a satisfying array of university presidents and other notables, representatives



CERTIFICATE OF A FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY, DEC. 7, 1915

Engraving signed: "E. D. French fecit 1904"



THE CORNERSTONE WELL LAID

Librarian Kelby

Benefactor Dexter

President Hoffman

of the historical and patriotic societies and the city administration, listened while the President delivered a brief address on the history and hopes of the Society and then introduced the Honorable Seth Low, Mayor of the City of New York, who laid the cornerstone with due solemnity. Then the gathering recrossed the street to the flag- and flower-decked Lecture Hall of the Natural History Museum and heard "a masterly address" by Hamilton W. Mabie, author and Associate Editor of the *Outlook*, on "The Genius of the Cosmopolitan City."⁴ After the benediction by Reverend Alexander Hamilton, the company adjourned to the Directors' Room where tea was served by Mrs. James M. Lawton of the Ladies' Committee, "thus bringing to a happy conclusion a day memorable in the annals of the Historical Society," as the Minutes enthusiastically reported.

The next year was a busy one, raising money and making



COMING TO THE CORNERSTONE CEREMONY, NOV. 17, 1903

From Museum of Natural History (right background of picture opposite)

plans for the future. At this point Robert H. Kelby, the Librarian, got in touch with one of his good friends and one of the Society's oldest members (he had joined the Society in 1862) and persuaded him to come to the aid of the building project. So, at the meeting of November 1, 1904, the President was able to announce that an anonymous donor had agreed to give \$150,000 and the granite for the front of the building, a total gift of about \$200,000, with which it would be possible to build up to the cornice of the first story. "The President's communication was received with great applause," say the Minutes, and we can well imagine the happiness of the members that there was, at last, a prospect of getting construction under way. The contract for the work, which was to cost \$150,000, was signed then and there; the architect announced that work would begin the next morning, and the Society ended a happy day with a vote

of thanks to the President and Mr. Kelby for their successful endeavors.

Two days later the news leaked out through the press that the anonymous donor was ninety-one-year-old Henry Dexter, New York businessman, president of the American News Company, traveler, author and philanthropist, who was making the gift as a memorial to his son, Orrando Perry Dexter, who had been murdered in the Adirondacks only a year before. This was news and the press made the most of it. Feature articles telling of the Dexter gift, the history and future plans of the Society, appeared in all the New York papers. Everybody was happy about it. So it was with great enthusiasm that the Society approached its hundredth anniversary which was celebrated on November 22d with a great banquet at Delmonico's (described in the chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Diners*). Of course Henry Dexter was made a Patron at the December meeting, a copy of the Centennial Medal was struck in gold for him (and one for Mr. Kelby), and the benefactor was requested to sit for his portrait for the Society's gallery of Founders and Benefactors. (He already had a handsome portrait which had been painted by Charles Ayer Whipple the previous year and this he gave us in 1906. Later on, his estate presented another portrait by the same artist, painted in 1907 when Mr. Dexter was in his 94th year.)

At this happy juncture, a catastrophe threatened the harassed President: the Society's old home on Second Avenue, still crammed to the eaves with a century's accumulation of priceless treasures, was sold for taxes! But it was all a mistake of the city tax department as described thus in the *Times* of June 22, 1905:

By an error on the tax books a piece of property at 170 Second Avenue [the Society's home] belonging to the New York Historical Society was sold at auction by the city yesterday for \$26.10 taxes and water rent for 1897.

Charles A. Sherman, Treasurer of the Society, was asked about the sale and seemed very much surprised. He said he had the receipt for the water rents for 1897. An investigation revealed the fact that the charge had been canceled on June 13. The charge for the water rents had been



OUR NEW BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, JUNE 1, 1906

made against Lot 6, which was the Society's building, whereas it should have been made against Lot 2, owned by the New York Baptist Missionary Society. The sale was canceled.

By this time Mr. Dexter thought nothing was so important as the speedy completion of the new building, so he gave additional funds making it possible to complete the walls and roof of the structure so that it would, at least, be safe from the elements. This work was finished by the end of 1906, but much remained to be done before the building would be completed. His total gift to the building came to a quarter of a million.

It was only natural that Mr. Dexter should have been impatient at the necessary delays of construction and he wrote to the President of the Society, and unfortunately, also to the newspapers, complaining about the snail-like speed of the enterprise. So, partly to appease him, it was planned to hold a meeting in the auditorium of their new home on November 20, 1906, even

though that was the only part of the building which had been completed. But Mr. Dexter was really angry, especially since the invitation did not come from the President but from the Chairman of the Anniversary Committee, and he sent his regrets. However, everyone else was there and heard an excellent address by Professor William M. Sloane of the Columbia University history faculty on "Proportions and Values in American History."⁸

Mr. Dexter was determined to see the project completed but he was ninety-four years old and none too well, so he wrote again, urging that all future meetings be held in the new building. This was quite impractical, however, and it would have been folly to move the Society's collections into the few finished rooms when the building was still full of the dust and damp of plastering.

Though the walls and roof were up at the beginning of 1907, and the first floor completed, there were not sufficient funds to finish the second floor when, in May, Miss Catharine Augusta DePeyster offered \$20,000 towards the work if the Society would assign a room to be "set aside for Miss DePeyster for all time in which to place certain heirlooms of the DePeyster family." This conditional gift was promptly accepted and the construction work was continued. In 1911 the Society finally received from her estate its largest bequest up to this time, property which had been willed to us in 1902 and which eventually gave us a fund of over \$607,000, as a memorial to her parents.

Mr. Dexter having become mollified in the meantime, a second meeting was held in the new auditorium on June 4, 1907, and this time the benefactor was present and was asked to call the meeting to order. By the end of the year much of the work on the second as well as part of the third floor was completed, and it was decided to call the newly finished Library "The John Alsop King and Dean Hoffman Memorial Room." The following spring it was voted to put a bronze tablet over the door from the hall to the auditorium with this inscription: "The Orrando Perry Dexter Memorial. The Gifts of Henry Dexter Made in



EIGHTH HOME OF THE SOCIETY, 1908-1937

Central portion of the present building, minus wings
Central Park West between 76th & 77th Streets

Memory of his Son, Orrando Perry Dexter, Have Enabled The New-York Historical Society to Erect this Building." Mr. Dexter was so pleased by this action that he offered to have the doorway done in proper style with a marble frame and mahogany doors at a cost of \$9,000.

Then the friends of the Society went to work to finish the Reading Room and book stacks so that the collections could be moved in during the summer. President Hoffman and the members of his family supplied the funds for the erection of stacks for the Reading Room and gallery to hold 20,000 volumes and for the purchase of furniture for the Reading Room. Archer M. Huntington and Samuel P. Avery gave sufficient money to build the main book stacks (the present newspaper stacks) up to the eighth of the Library gallery, and President Hoffman added 5,000 towards their completion to the top of the second story.

Then came August 20, 1908, the great day when the Society began to move its treasures to its new home. This tremendous

operation took the rest of the summer and autumn but it was finally possible to open the still-unfinished building on December 15, 1908, and Mr. Dexter was a happy man for he had lived to see his dearest hopes realized. But the main exhibition hall on the second floor, occupying most of the front of the building was still unfinished, so Mr. Dexter supplied the money for its prompt completion and the Society joyfully voted to call it "Henry Dexter Hall," so everybody was very happy indeed. The new hall was completed and opened for inspection on May 4, 1909, just in time to be used for the showing of the wonderful Robert Fulton loan exhibition put on by the Society and the Colonial Dames of America in connection with the Hudson-Fulton Celebration. This exhibit was visited by 2,000 persons, one of whom was the present writer during his first thrilling visit to the city.

During 1908 two beautiful stained-glass windows were installed in the Library at either side of the main desk: one representing the arrival of Henry Hudson, designed by Mr. Frank J. Ready of the Gorham Manufacturing Company and given by The Society of the Daughters of Holland Dames; and the other depicting the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, by Miss Mary Tillinghast, and given as a Huguenot Memorial by Mrs. Russell Sage. Mr. Dexter lived to see the building completed and occupied and the first big exhibit held in Dexter Hall; then he died on July 11, 1910, aged 98 years, the chief benefactor of the Society up to that time. The old home of the Society on Second Avenue was finally sold in April 1912 for \$80,000. And so ended the Society's youth and the beginning of its maturity. The still wingless central portion of the new building was completed at a cost of \$286,500 for the site and \$421,150 for the building and furnishings, or a total of \$707,650, according to the Annual Report of 1910.

Of course, as soon as the new building was opened and the public was welcomed without having to be introduced by a member, the attendance increased five hundred percent and gifts of



MEMORIAL WINDOWS IN WEST WALL OF LIBRARY, INSTALLED 1908

Reading Room of present building before reconstruction

kinds poured in from every direction. During this period our annual income increased by \$26,000, the expenditures by \$12,000, and the Society added 60,000 books and other items to the library and about 150 paintings to its invaluable collection. To handle this mass of incoming materials the Society had, at the time of the removal to the new building, a staff of four: H. Kelby, the Librarian, A. J. Wall and William Hildebrand as his assistants, and Charles Washbourn, the janitor. How they ever handled the transfer of our precious possessions to the new home of the Society, even with the help of professional movers, is still a mystery. The three major events of this decade, the Centennial banquet in 1904, the first meeting in the new building in 1906, and the Hudson-Fulton Celebration in 1909, are described



FINAL GLIMPSE OF OUR OLD ELEVENTH-STREET READING ROOM
With library partially crated for moving, August 1908

in the final chapter on *Elegant Dinners and Eloquent Dinners*. As a sequel to the Centennial, Robert H. Kelby's brief history of the Society's first hundred years, which was developed from a lantern slide lecture before the members, was published.⁶

How would you like to go through the library and museum and look at some of the treasures which came in during this interesting decade? One of the most valuable gifts ever received was the private library of Rufus and Dr. Charles Ray King, with additions from that of John Alsop King—a collection of between five and six thousand volumes, including some of the rarest and most important works on the period of discovery, exploration and colonization of our country. Here, for example, is Daniel Denton's *A Brief Description of New-York, London, 1670*, the first account of the province in English; and Charles Wolley's *A Two Years Journal in New York [1678–1680], London, 1701*

of which we have one of a half-dozen located copies of the first issue.

Our library also secured from other sources a presentation copy of the first edition of William Smith's *History of New York*, 1757; and an important run of the *New York Herald* from 1851 through 1907; and, among manuscripts, the Lord Cornbury Charter of New York City, 1708; a 1724 letter of William Bradford, New York's first printer; 20,000 seventeenth- and eighteenth-century family papers from the Glen-Sanders family at Scotia, New York; a British orderly book of 1776 giving the only official record of the execution of Nathan Hale as a spy; the very important original diary of our former Vice-President, Philip Hone, in 28 volumes, 1828-1851, which has been partially published in two different editions; eight precious original manuscript poems of William Cullen Bryant; and the original manuscript of Captain Edmund Fanning (1769-1841): *Voyages Round the World*, which was published in New York in 1833. We were also happy to get 42 very rare waxed paper photographic negatives of views in New York City taken about 1853-1854, half of which were reproduced in our *Annual Reports* for 1917 and 1918.

In 1908 General John Watts DePeyster bequeathed us \$25,000 to be used to bind the large collection of family papers he had previously given and as an addition to the endowment of our Publication Fund which was then renamed the John Watts DePeyster Publication Fund, from which we have issued, since the original fund was put to use in 1868, eighty-one volumes of important source materials from our vast manuscript collection.

To the museum came the small but important Edwin Smith Egyptian collection, including the Edwin Smith Medical and Surgical Papyrus of the seventeenth century before Christ, a copy of an earlier manuscript of some four thousand years ago, which is the oldest extant collection of medical and surgical case stories. This precious papyrus was translated by the eminent Egyptologist, James Henry Breasted, and published some years

ago and the original was given in 1948 by the Society and the Brooklyn Museum to the library of the New York Academy of Medicine where it is piously preserved as its chief treasure.⁷

The famous Beekman family coach, the oldest surviving New York City vehicle, was in use by the family before the Revolution, was frequently used by Washington during his first term as President, and was lent to the Society in 1907.⁸ In 1911 Gerard Beekman gave the Society the coach and with it the Blue Room from the Beekman Mansion, which was used as British headquarters during the war. It was to this room that the American spy Nathan Hale was brought for questioning before he was taken to the adjoining orchard to be hung. The gift also included the bedroom from the mansion, in which the British spy John André slept the night before he went north to meet Benedict Arnold. These historically important rooms are now installed as period rooms in the museum. Gerard Beekman also gave \$1,000 to be used for the upkeep of the Beekman relics, including the mantelpiece of the old mansion which had already been given.

The museum also received the wonderful Gallatin family mazer of 1498; a case of flintlock pistols and a flintlock fowling piece once owned and used by Rufus King; General Henry Dearborn's War of 1812 sword and pistol holsters; the Congressional Medal of Honor, given to David Williams, one of the captors of André, 1780; a charming wooden statuette of Father Knickerbocker from Knickerbocker Hall at the corner of Twenty-third Street and Eighth Avenue, later the coach house of the Knickerbocker Stage Line; the huge Lafayette Punch Bowl from Castle Garden, showing views of the landing of Lafayette on his return to America in 1824 and formerly owned by the proprietors of that popular resort; the dress coat and waistcoat of James De Lancey, 1740; and 405 watercolor drawings of engraved powder horns made from the originals, mostly in Central New York, by Rufus Grider.

Of the large number of oil portraits and miniatures, only a



THE BEEKMAN FAMILY COACH, PURCHASED 1771

Gift of Gerard Beekman, 1911

ew can be mentioned: The Peter Marié collection of 284 miniatures of New York's Four Hundred (which had been refused when bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum but which we received gladly); oil portraits of Governor Peter Stuyvesant and six of his immediate descendants; two miniatures of John Pintard, one mounted on his wife's wristlet, the other (together with one of Mrs. Pintard) by John Ramage; Abraham Lincoln and his family, by Frank B. Carpenter, 1864, the last portrait painted of Lincoln, of which the slightly prejudiced artist said: "It is the best portrait of Lincoln ever placed on canvas." There are also portraits of George and Martha Washington (porthole type), by Rembrandt Peale; miniatures of William Cullen Bryant and his wife, together with his portrait on a cameo and his daguerreotype; and a fine oil portrait of President Franklin Pierce by Peale. We also received oil portraits of several founders, presidents, and other benefactors of the Society; a miniature of Mrs. Horatio Gates, wife of the Revolutionary General; a crayon of

S. F. B. Morse; an oil of William Gilliland by Ralph Earle; and many other valuable likenesses, including an original daguerreotype of Washington Irving.

Other paintings include: two charming W. G. Wall watercolors of Fishkill and the Palisades for his famous *Hudson River Portfolio* of which we now have the majority of the originals; a large number of oil paintings, sketches, and a portrait of Asher B. Durand; Thomas Cole's original study for his larger "A Dream of Arcadia"; William Birch's "The Escape of the Constitution"; Albert Bierstadt's "Lake California" and "Autumn Scenery."

Some of our most important paintings and prints of old New York came to us at this time, many of them the gift of President Hoffman. They include: "The Southeast Prospect of New York City," 1756-1761; the very important and interesting "Tontine Coffee House," by Francis Guy, about 1800; "Bowling Green," by David Johnson, 1868; "Castle Garden"; the three edifices of the John Street Methodist Church, by J. B. Smith; and "Knickerbocker Hall," by the coach painter who decorated the coaches of the Knickerbocker Stage Line.

Then came the auction of the famous E. B. Holden collection of New York views which began on April 21, 1910, and at which we bought 116 lots, mostly New York views but with some local manuscripts, all paid for by President Hoffman. Among them were: a wash drawing of New York from Long Island, by or after John Wood, 1801; an aquatint of New York from the Bay, by J. G. Chapman, 1836 (unique proof before letters); a painting of New York from Weehawken, by N. Calyo; a painting of New York from the Navy Yard, Brooklyn; another of Upper New York from the East River; a watercolor of lower Broadway, 1850, by A. Köllner, from which a colored lithograph was published; a painting of Broadway at Grand Street, about 1852; the Government House—the very important original drawing by William Rollinson, 1796, and a unique proof of its engraving by the same artist; original painting of the great fire of New York, 1835, with Castle

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

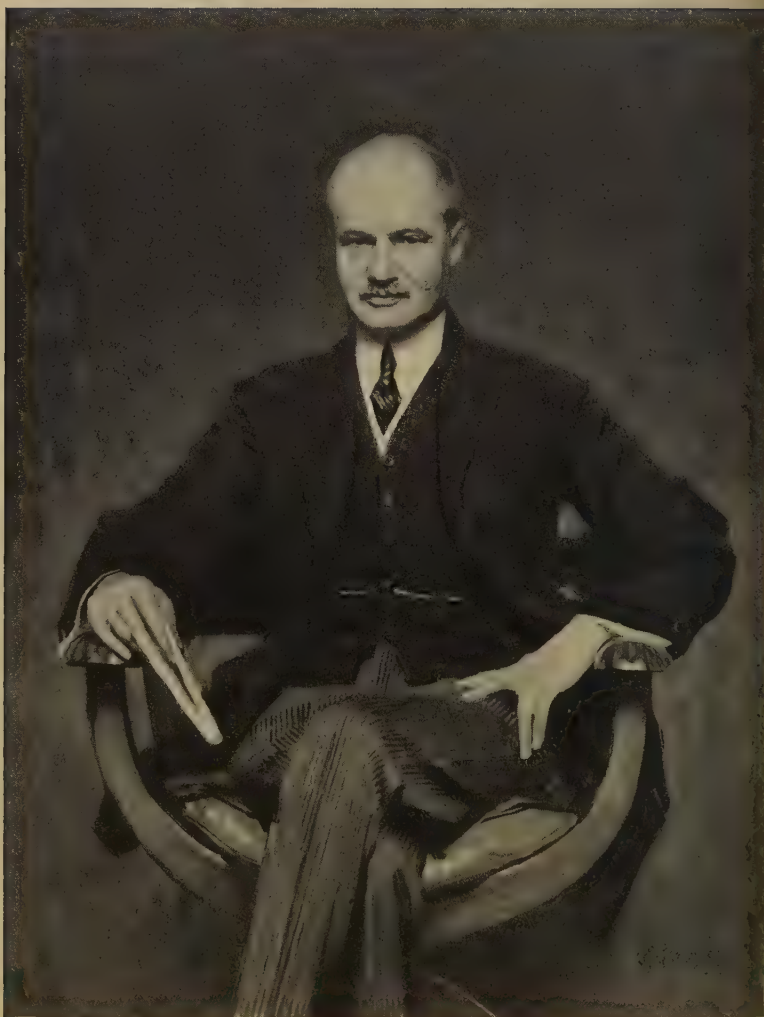
Villiams in the foreground; original watercolor of Wall Street, by A. Köllner, from which a colored lithograph was made; and a

French map of the siege of Yorktown, 1781, with a copy of Rochambeau's journal of the siege, copied by the same hand, a French army engineer, whose own journal is included. From other sources we secured a sepia drawing of New York, by John W. Hill, 1852; the very important Boston Massacre print by Paul Revere; and 378 original woodblocks by Dr. Alexander Anderson; and two bronzes: a bust of Robert Fulton from the plaster of Houdon, gift of the Colonial Dames of America; and "The Primitive Marksman," by Fernando Miranda, gift of the artist, which now adorns our garden.



DIEDRICH KNICKERBOCKER

Wooden Statuette from Knickerbocker Hall
Gift of the George Shepherd Estate, 1912



JOHN ABEEL WEEKES (1856-1939)

Twenty-first President of the Society, 1913-1939

By Hermann Hanatschek, 1923

Painted from life for the Society

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

JOHN ABEEL WEEKES (1856-1939)

TWENTY-FIRST PRESIDENT (1913-1939)

Mr. Weekes was born at Oyster Bay, Long Island, July 24, 1856, the son of John Abeel Weekes who had served as Vice-President of the Society from 1889 to 1895. The son was a graduate of Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1877 and of the law school of Columbia University in 1882. He entered his father's law firm, Weekes and De Forest, later known as Weekes Brothers. He was elected to the New York Assembly on the Citizens' Union reform ticket and served from 1898 to 1902. He joined our Society in 1883 and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 1902. In 1909 he was elected Domestic Corresponding Secretary, which office he held until 1913 when he was chosen President of the Society. During the next twenty-six years, Mr. Weekes guided the Society in his conservative manner without thought of personal benefit but with all attention for the best interests of the Society. His sound advice was a gratification to his fellow trustees. His genial personality and unassuming manner will always be remembered, and the service he rendered the Society will ever be appreciated. Ill health and advanced age caused him to resign from the presidency of the Society on April 3, 1939, and he died on May 4th of that year.⁹ The Society owns an oil portrait of Mr. Weekes by Hermann Hanatschek, painted in 1923.

DURING the twenty-six years of Mr. Weekes' administration the country fought the First World War and weathered the worst panic in years, coyly called the Depression. Because of the unsettled conditions of the nation's finances, there was much difficulty in handling the Society's investments, most of which were in local real estate and mortgages until, towards the end of the period, Treasurer Zabriskie began to invest in other securities. It was well-nigh impossible to collect interest and rents but the Society continued to live on its income without having to sell its securities to meet operating expenses. In spite of financial difficulties the Society secured 1,115 new members which kept the total membership in the neighborhood of 1,000 in spite of deaths and resignations due to the depression. The lectures for members were continued, travelogues being more popular than historical addresses. Lectures for children were begun but had to be discontinued because of the influenza

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

epidemic; and we conducted frequent motion-picture programs beginning in 1917. Much time, money, and effort were spent in preparing, exhibiting, and cataloguing the Society's great Egyptian collection; the Edwin Smith Medical papyrus was translated and published, and the whole collection lent to the Brooklyn Museum, along with the Lenox Nineveh Marbles and the pre-Columbian Central and South American artifacts and Plains Indians materials. The Field Exploration Committee investigated many Revolutionary and War of 1812 sites and gathered a great collection of relics between 1918 and 1937. The great event of this period was the receipt of the Thompson bequest which made it possible for us to finish our building, enlarge our staff and services to the public, and to establish a satisfactory endowment.

War Years (1913-1920)

Woodrow Wilson was president of a nation of nearly 106 millions; suffragettes paraded in Washington and New York; the constitution gave us income taxes, woman suffrage, and prohibition. The first World War began in Europe in 1914 and we opened the Panama Canal; General Pershing was chasing the bandit Pancho Villa around Mexico, the Philippines were given a territorial government with a promise of independence when they could take it; the Puerto Ricans became citizens; and there was a big preparedness parade in New York. Then came the Russian Revolution and the Bolsheviks (Lenin and Trotsky) took over. American ships were sunk by German submarines, and the *Lusitania* went down with 1,198 lives lost, including 124 Americans. Wilson sent notes to Germany, there was much political and labor unrest until he declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, and later on Austria-Hungary. The war brought economic prosperity, food and fuel conservation; and our boys did their full share to win the war which ended with great rejoicing on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. Wilson's League

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

of Nations and Fourteen Points proved unpopular in Congress and the Versailles Treaty was signed for the United States but not ratified by the Senate. During these years we had the country's worst influenza epidemic, with thousands of deaths, much sadness because of the sons and brothers lost in the war but also much gaiety, with monster military parades at the war's end. Before the war we began sending packages by parcels post and in 1918 letters could be mailed by air from New York to Washington and Chicago. In New York you could see the first exhibit of modern art at the Armory in 1913, the *Birth of a Nation* in the movies two years later, as well as Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford; and for the next few years you whistled and sang *Tipperary*, *Over There*, *Pack Up Your Troubles* and *The Long, Long Trail*.

"Like an ancient spinster, who puts on her paint and her ornaments when she intends to ask a favor, the old Historical Society has sent up to its garrets and down to its cellars and becked itself with rare paintings preparatory to asking for a fund to build wings to its present edifice on Central Park West and Seventy-sixth street, where it owns two vacant plots, sufficient for a gallery of pictures and a museum of relics."¹⁰ That was the situation when, in 1913, John Abeel Weekes took over the presidency and set about it to find the funds to build the wings to relieve the congestion and make it possible for the "ancient spinster" to show off her jewels. A million dollars worth of paintings had just been put on display as a hint of what was in store for the public when adequate gallery space could be added to the present crowded central portion of the building. Though small gifts came in, it was not until 1914 that the Society received its first real thrill of recent years when Miss Kate Warner left us \$100,000 as a memorial to her father, Colonel Andrew Varner, who, for forty-nine years, had been the Society's faithful Recording Secretary. This bequest, however, could not be used to help build the desperately needed wings. The President, though realizing that we owned "the largest permanent

exhibition of art in the country," knew all too well that it could never be adequately shown in its present quarters and, in his report for the year 1914, said: "Our building is absolutely full—it has become a mere storehouse where the treasures are preserved." He reported that the building held 1,045 paintings, of which nearly 300 were portraits, in addition to a quarter of a million books and 5,000 volumes of newspapers, as well as a vast collection of museum material.

Though there were no funds available for building an addition, the Society could, at least, put its collections in order. So hundreds of paintings were cleaned and restored, a beginning was made in cataloging the manuscripts and prints, and plans were under way for hiring an expert to care for the Egyptian collection and for the publication of a periodical. A photo-copying machine was installed and was being used constantly for the reproduction of rare manuscripts and newspapers needed by scholars, and annual volumes of historical source materials from the Society's manuscript collections were appearing with gratifying regularity.

But as the year 1917 opened, a pall seemed to have settled over the spirits of the nation. Since 1914 President Wilson had kept us out of war but the German submarines had sunk our ships and murdered our people and he could no longer tell us that he was "too proud to fight." He had sent notes and more notes to Germany but the subs continued to take their toll while the administration and the nation wallowed in the trough of indecision. We were on the verge of war which was to come to us later in the spring and allow us once more to lift our head among the great nations of the world. We were soon to join the allies in the war which we told ourselves would "make the world safe for democracy."

With our every thought centered on the growing menace of war, the Society and its activities could not but be affected. Though our building remained open and the monthly lectures were held as usual, the members had little time for the familiar

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

activities of peaceful days and our meetings were sparsely attended. In the half-finished building the exhibits were badly crowded and our funds barely sufficient to maintain the status quo with the aid of the three men of the library staff, the janitor, engineer, porters and night watchman. Since the attendance of members at the business meetings was so slim, it seemed wise to place the active operation of the Society more completely in the hands of the Executive Committee so that our affairs might be carried on smoothly in spite of the emergency, and so it was planned to change the by-laws in order to make the new arrangement possible. And at this critical juncture, one of our own members decided to torpedo the Society. This tempest in a teapot might appropriately be dubbed "Mrs. Van Rensselaer's War." As one poetaster put it:

Again has that belligerent and much outspoken dame,
Sharp Mrs. John Van Rensselaer, achieved a bit of fame.
To no man's views or ways or speech bends she the humble knee,
And what she says and what she does the wide, wide world may see."¹¹

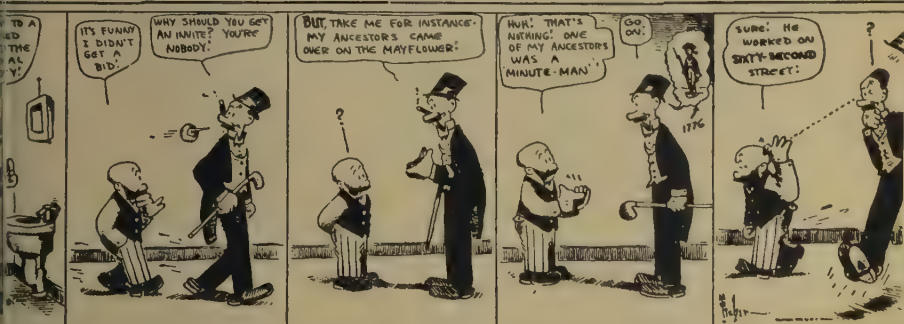
Hannah Maria Brown King had been named for her maternal grandmother, Hannah Maria Denning, wife of William Alexander Duer, but she evidently did not like the old-fashioned names with which she had been christened¹² and so decided to call herself May Denning King.¹³ She was descended from a long line of old New Yorkers and joined a still more illustrious family when, in 1871, she married John King Van Rensselaer. At the time of our narrative she was a white-haired, overweight dowager of 69 years [born May 25, 1848] with a dominant (we would not go so far as to say domineering) disposition, who liked to run things, perhaps as a compensation for some real or fancied inadequacy. She knew all of the right people.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer had found time to write brief studies on crocheted lace and playing cards and a superficial book on old New York. She had published a couple of genealogical charts of the families of her ancestors, a volume on the social life of Newport, and a none-too-accurate gossip book called *The Social*

Ladder. "She kept alive the inherited prejudice against Washington Irving, whose 'Knickerbocker History' was resented by old New Yorkers in whom pride of race was greater than sense of humor. . . . Her knowledge of New York was never so profound as that of her relative, Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer. Nor did she approach in scholarship Mr. Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes."¹⁴

She had become a life member of the Society in 1898 and so took a proprietary interest in its activities. In her prowling about the building, Mrs. Van Rensselaer found many things to criticise. In fact, she went about, notebook in hand, *looking* for causes of dissatisfaction, and from 1915 to 1920, continued a barrage of critical letters to the President of the Society in which she suggested changes which were clearly impossible to carry out until the building could be completed and the endowment increased. She called for a vigorous campaign for the collecting of the furnishings and heirlooms of the old New York families when it was obvious that there would be no present place to display or even to store them. Pointing out that, in ancient times, the king had to have a Queen Consort, she suggested that the President come and see her in order to hear her views for the Society's improvement and threatened that she and her friends would deflect their activities elsewhere if the Society did not adopt their suggestions.¹⁵ She further proposed that various old families be invited to endow individual rooms and put up memorial windows to their New York ancestors, forgetting that there was no space for such rooms or windows.¹⁶ Later on, she threatened that, if the President did not appoint her and two of her friends a committee to have a series of teas in our building, she would play a practical joke on the Society that would make it ridiculous.¹⁷ In the same letter, apropos of her dislike of the librarian, she said that she had frequently visited our building and had made many notes. She reported telling one of the officers that he was making the Society an "Old man's club," and spoke of her enjoyment of his speechless rage.¹⁸ Being a gentleman, he could not answer her in kind. She ended another long tirade on the Society, its museum, lec-

JEFF—Sixty Seconds Make One Minute By BUD FISHER



CARTOON RIBBING THE SOCIETY IN THE NEW YORK WORLD, MAY 24, 1922

ures, librarian and general management with the repeated threat that she would have great pleasure in carrying out her plan to make the Society ridiculous.¹⁹ The President's courteous replies to these attacks, in which he explained the Society's inability to put on an extensive campaign of expansion in the midst of a world war, did nothing to alleviate Mrs. Van Rensselaer's feelings of animosity.

The minutes of the annual meeting of January 2, 1917, after the various reports had been read and approved and the officers elected, contain the following entry:

Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer with remarks submitted the following solutions: "Whereas, It is desirable to appoint committees for entertainment, and also for developing the Society on the lines for which it was founded, Be it Resolved, that three members be appointed by the President on each committee with power to act."

On motion of Mr. Thomas J. Burton, seconded by Mr. Richard Henry Greene, the foregoing resolutions were referred to the Executive Committee.

But that was not, by any means, the whole story. The affair was gleefully aired the following day in all of the leading New York newspapers. Let us follow the proceedings as they were reported by the representative of the *New York Times*:²⁰

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, member of one of the oldest Knickerbocker families, rose unexpectedly at the annual meeting of The New-York Historical Society last night, and addressed its staid, and afterwards startled, representatives, and said with great deliberation:

"I have been attending the meetings of The New-York Historical Society for nearly three years, and have not heard one new or advanced scientific thought, although many distinguished speakers have visited the city." Several of those present gasped, but she appeared not to notice.

"Having been a life member of the society," she continued, "I can no longer be silent on the conditions which exist in an organization of which I should be proud but of which I am ashamed. I hear on all sides that the Society is dead or moribund. Instead of being in the front rank of similar organizations in the United States, it is in the rear. Some members may be satisfied with present conditions; I am not. Many have told me they have resigned because of them. Only a few attend meetings because they are uninteresting and dull."

Mrs. Van Rensselaer, who has snow-white hair and looks like a Duchess of the Victorian period, paused to scan the paper from which she was reading and to permit the full meaning of her words to sink in on her audience. Silence had meanwhile descended on the dignified company, and John Abeel Weekes, the President, stared in a mixture of polite amazement and incredulity at the determined woman before him.

"And instead of an imposing edifice filled with treasures from old New York, what do we find?" demanded Mrs. Van Rensselaer. "Only a deformed monstrosity filled with curiosities, ill arranged and badly assorted."

She suggested that committees be appointed to inject life into the society, and that these committees get in touch with distinguished scientists with the view of learning from them what was new in science.

"Is there a second to Mrs. Van Rensselaer's motion?" finally asked President Weekes, and a man who sat close to Mrs. Van Rensselaer said he would second it "just to enable the matter to be discussed." Evidently this was not the desire of the majority present, however, for a motion that the suggestions made by Mrs. Van Rensselaer be referred to the Executive Committee was carried with a rush.

The New-York Historical Society has 800 [*actually 839*] members but only twenty attended the meeting last night. There were five others present as spectators [were they reporters insinuated into the meeting by Mrs. Van Rensselaer?], but they had no part in the proceedings and seemed lost in the brilliantly lighted assembly hall of the Society at Central Park West and Seventy-Sixth Street.

The other papers had similar accounts of the evening's performance, under such headings as: "Oh! Oh! Historical Society

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

ecadent she says" (*Herald*), "Historical body is called dead" (*Tribune*), "Mrs. Van Rensselaer shakes up dry bones" (*World*). The *World* had the following comment: "Probably never since the Society was founded, in 1804, have twenty-five [*sic*, twenty] members had a greater shock than Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer caused when she blew the dust from the Society's venerated reputation and began a lively criticism of it."

There was, for a few days, considerable stir in the community. Articles, interviews, and editorials appeared in the newspapers, some of which, obviously inspired by interviews with Mrs. Van Rensselaer, were mildly critical until President Weekes answered her spiteful attacks by a calm recital of the facts. He explained that work was well along on a catalogue of the Society's collections, that an Egyptologist had been hired and additional cases purchased for the proper display of the Society's great collection of Egyptian antiquities, and that, of course, only about half of the Society's museum objects could be displayed until such time as the two wings of the building could be completed.²¹ An editorial in the *New York Times* said:

The Metropolitan public is almost as much grieved as shocked by the charges which Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer threw like a shower of stones and grenades among the faithful score who gathered Tuesday night to witness the opening of the Society's new building. . . . through the formality of its annual meeting. Of course it was a woman who created all the excitement . . . for it is only women who dare to make 'scenes;' men have a deadly fear of disclosing private matters and exciting the amused or reprehensive comment of an irreverent populace . . . The prospects are . . . that her assault on this venerable institution will have good results—that it will be stirred into life and activity.²²

Among those who came to the support of the Society was a distinguished scholar and benefactor who wrote as follows to the Editor of the *Times*: "Perhaps this is a suitable time for me to ask to offer through your columns my thanks to The New-York Historical Society for the unfailing kindness, sound advice, and ready help which I have received at the hands of its librarian, Mr. Kelby, and his assistants for more than thirty years. HELEN FAIRCHILD."

In spite of the absurdity of her ill-natured charges, Mrs. Van Rensselaer's attack had put the officers of the Society on the defensive. The President appointed a special committee consisting of the Third Vice-President, the Treasurer, and a member of the Executive Board, to investigate the charges against the administration of the Society. Realizing that they might be accused of prejudice, they secured the services of three impartial, top-flight specialists, Doctors Worthington C. Ford, John W. Jordan, and Clarence S. Brigham, librarians, respectively, of the Massachusetts and Pennsylvania Historical Societies and the American Antiquarian Society, who made a thorough investigation of the Society's building, collections, and staff. In his report as spokesman of the visiting committee, Dr. Brigham said in part:

I have been visiting the New York Historical Society to consult historical material with considerable frequency for about twenty years, and can claim a certain amount of familiarity with its work. Nowhere, in any library in the country, have I been treated with greater courtesy, or served more intelligently and expeditiously. What faults are chargeable to the Society—and they are sins of omission rather than of commission—are imperfections due chiefly to lack of means. If certain work has not been done, if certain publications have not been compiled, if certain kinds of assistance have not been furnished, it is because the officers have not been provided with the necessary means to fulfil these obligations. And this has always been the besetting sin of the Society from the beginning. How it has accomplished so much with so little has always been a source of wonder to those most familiar with its workings. It seems to me that in a community which boasts of the greatest wealth of any city on the continent there should be little trouble in persuading the possessors of riches to support adequately an institution which has done so much, and could do so much more, to give New York its proper place in the history of the nation.²³

The Society's own special committee also made a thorough examination of the plant, with particular emphasis on the condition of the museum and art collections, in which they pointed out the fact that, with the help of recent additions to their limited funds, the Society had, even before Mrs. Van Rensselaer's critical blast, placed orders for new cases for the Egyptian collection, had engaged an Egyptologist to put that part of the museum in order, had made plans for additions to the staff of the Library,

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

had had a large number of the paintings cleaned and properly labelled and the early newspapers bound, had made great progress in cataloguing the books and manuscripts, had brought up to date the arrears of the Society's publications and had authorized the publication of a Quarterly. They announced that they had also planned to reorganize and improve the lecture course and begin a series of programs for children. The publication²⁴ of this report brought home to the members and the public the injustice of the criticisms and emphasized the fact that the Society was already carrying out a vigorous campaign of growth and improvement.

The membership rallied to the support of the Society; the remaining meetings of 1917 were well attended; many gifts of money and objects poured in; and fifty-one new members were enrolled. At the November meeting a much-needed revision of the by-laws, which had remained unchanged for many years, was submitted, printed, and circulated among the members and, at the December 4th meeting, was adopted. The new by-laws, among other provisions, stipulated that a general meeting of the Society should be held in January of every third year for the election of officers for a three-year term, that special meetings could be held on request of a majority of the Executive Committee or of one hundred members and that the Executive Committee should "manage the affairs, property and business of the Society." These changes made it impossible for a small, unrepresentative, partisan group to stampede a meeting and, by outvoting the other members present, to take over the running of the Society. Mrs. Van Rensselaer was not pleased with the new by-laws.

The Society ran on an even keel until the time approached for the next general meeting for the election of officers on January 6, 1920, but Mrs. Van Rensselaer had not been idle. Some time in November she had a circular letter, signed by eighteen members, sent to the membership soliciting cooperation, either in person or by proxy, for the support of a ticket in opposition to that accepted in nomination by the Nominating Committee of the Society. In this letter she claimed "that the management of the

Society has fallen into the hands of subordinate officers [Messrs. Kelby and Wall, the Librarian and Assistant Librarian] and that many members of the Executive Committee have little knowledge of the Society's affairs and take but little active interest in the details of its operations." She went on to enumerate her often-reiterated and as often disproved statements as to the sad condition of the Society's collections.

On December 5, 1919, the Recording Secretary of the Society sent out a call for the annual meeting, enclosing the "Regular" slate and a proxy for the election of officers and ending with the significant statement: "No guests are invited at this meeting." The Society remembered how the five reporters had been insinuated into the meeting three years ago. There was also enclosed a printed letter from the Executive Committee answering the November letter from Mrs. Van Rensselaer and her friends. Part of her letter was quoted and all of it adequately answered as follows:

Such an uncalled for attack on this Society as regards its management and the fitness and integrity of those to whom its affairs have been entrusted is not only untrue but in every way discreditable to those who offer it, while the long and admirable service of both its subordinate officers does not justify any statement reflecting on their fidelity and usefulness It is difficult to understand the reason for this unprovoked and bitter presentment, except a desire to gain control of the Society's affairs No other historical society can boast of as many activities as are now in operation within The New-York Historical Society and its conservation and careful management surely entitles those who are engaged in enlarging its work of usefulness to the confidence of our members and their united and earnest support in the present election.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer replied with another circular letter, dated December 9th, 1919, and signed with twenty-five names, in which she concentrated her attack on the new by-laws. This was answered on the sixteenth by a letter from the Executive Committee which said in part:

The members of the Society should not be led astray by the ulterior motive in attacking the by-laws. It is not an attack on the by-laws, but an attack to gain control of the Society's affairs. This contention is

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

radily seen when we analyze the interests of those who signed the opposition circular. Of the twenty-five names signed, thirteen were nominated by one of the signers [Mrs. Van Rensselaer] (who instituted the previous attack against the Society) Two of the signers are no longer members of the Society and one never has been, leaving seventeen members who object to the change, and of the opposition ticket all of the nominees with the except of three names, were nominated for membership by the same one person. It is therefore easily seen what the real motive is behind this most unjustified attack on our institution. It is unfortunate that even sixteen members could be found who would knowingly attempt so bold an attack, and endeavor to place the Society in the hands of an entirely new board who would be unfamiliar with its work, its traditions, and the history of its past.

The annual meeting on January 6th was a stormy session, as we know from the stenographic report of the proceedings. But when the air had somewhat cleared and the votes and proxies had been counted, it was found that those on the regular ticket had received either 512 or 513 votes and those on the opposition ticket from 77 to 79 votes. The President then rose and, with that inner jubilation we may imagine, said: "Therefore it would appear that the regular ticket has been elected and I hereby declare it duly elected."

And so Mrs. Van Rensselaer was defeated in her attempt to take over the running of the Society. But she was not silenced, for, on February 5, 1920, she sent the officers and Executive Committee a twelve-page, single-spaced typewritten tirade which, after having been duly considered by a special committee, was carefully filed in the archives.

We next hear of the irrepressible Mrs. Van Rensselaer when the *New York Times* of October 31, 1920, reported an informal "Americanization" meeting at her home the previous day at which she announced that she was "back of a movement to have the Archibald Gracie mansion at Horen Hook, Hells Gate, opened as a historical museum, under the patronage of twenty society women, representatives of the oldest families in New York, plans for which were discussed at the meeting." These plans finally matured and the *New York Times* of December 2, 1920, reported that:

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

"Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer of 157 East 37th Street has announced the formation of the Society of Patriotic New Yorkers, which was organized at a meeting held at her home on Tuesday evening." It will "launch an educational campaign to teach the inhabitants of the city and State just what New York really is and its importance in relation to the Union." Members, who could join only on invitation, were of four classes: "Ancestral" members must be descended from residents of the State before 1776, "constructive" members must have been born in the State, "registered" members shall have had two or more ancestors who owned property in the State prior to 1776, and "corresponding" members might be asked to join because of their knowledge of New York. "What we want to do," said Mrs. Van Rensselaer, "is to introduce New Yorkers to our New York heroes—the men of great names who have aided in making New York what it is . . . We want a house of the year 1800, of which there are still half a dozen in the city. There we will install figures of men and women—call them wax figures, if you like—dressed in the costumes of their times, and surrounded by the furniture they knew."

"A search for a house built not later than 1800 led them to the then-unrestored Gracie Mansion where they established a small museum under the curatorship of Henry Collins Brown."²⁶ Here a small loan collection of furniture and prints was shown for a brief period, after which the Society of Patriotic New Yorkers and its museum were heard from no more. Then, in 1923, the property was taken over, restored, and reopened in 1927 by the newly organized Museum of the City of New York which remained at Gracie Mansion until the completion of its present handsome building on upper Fifth Avenue.²⁰ Mrs. Van Rensselaer did not live to try her hand at running this fine museum for she died on May 11, 1925, within a fortnight of her seventy-seventh birthday.²⁷ *Requiescat in Pace!*

In addition to Honorary and Resident Members, Patrons and Fellows, the Society added Associate Members to its roster in 1917 in order to recognize the helpful cooperation of specialized scholars and to show appreciation for the contributions of donors. The *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Society began publication in April 1917, with an issue of 25 pages and three illustrations and is now in its thirty-eighth volume with the current issue

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

July 1954) containing 152 pages and 63 illustrations. The accompanying *Annual Report* has grown from 91 pages and ten illustrations to 144 pages and 35 illustrations.

In 1917 Mrs. Grant Williams, a competent Egyptologist from the University of Chicago, was placed in charge of the Egyptian collection with Paul W. Hoffman of Boston as preparator from 1917 to 1923. Exhibition cases were bought, the collection refurbished and put on exhibition, a guidebook authorized (of which only the section on jewelry was ever completed), and a series of articles was written by the curator for publication in the *Quarterly*.

Up to 1917 there were but two professional members of the library staff, the Librarian and Assistant Librarian who doubled as cataloguer, bookkeeper, museum curator, and editor, and eight members of the building staff. That year five more assistants were added to the professional crew, a lantern-slide machine was installed, motion pictures were shown for the first time, and the following year steel manuscript stacks were installed in the north end of the library. In 1917 we hired a bookkeeper and three years later a firm of certified public accountants, which is still with us, was employed to audit the Society's books. The library prepared for subscribing libraries a photostat file of all known issues of Bradford's *New York Gazette*, our first local newspaper. In 1920 there were nearly 16,000 visitors to the building. The Society was growing in efficiency and usefulness.

In July, 1920, the old Second Avenue building was torn down and we secured the contents of the box in the cornerstone, except for a few coins which found their way into the pockets of the wrecking crew.

A most interesting and historically valuable activity of the society began in 1918 when the Field Exploration Committee was appointed with William Louis Calver as Chairman and Reginald Pelham Bolton as his chief co-worker and with about eight or ten others associated with them at different times. From 1918 to 1937 they prepared annual reports of their explorations



MESSRS. CALVER (SEATED) AND BOLTON, FIELD EXPLORATION COMMITTEE
In excavated fireplace of British officer's hut, Inwood, New York City

and Messrs. Calver and Bolton published a most important series of specialized articles in our *Quarterly* which were reissued in book form under the title: *History Written With Pick and Shovel*, the only manual on this interesting subject.²⁶

This committee, working ahead of the steam shovels of the factory and apartment-house builders, discovered and excavated the British and American fortifications and military camp sites in northern Manhattan Island and The Bronx; the sites of Forts Washington, Tryon, and George; other sites on Staten Island, Long Island, and in Westchester County; in the Highlands of the Hudson, around West Point and Constitution Island; Forts George and Eric on the Niagara River, and other forts on the St. Lawrence and Richelieu Rivers. The greater part of the collection of thousands of pieces of military and camp equipment which they dug up came to the Society where Mr. Calver cleaned, mounted, and catalogued them. Perhaps the most in-

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

Interesting pieces were the cartridge-box badges, belt-plates and regimental buttons of the American, British, and Loyalist corps in the Revolution, a study of which made it possible to identify the regiments operating in these areas. The collection of Revolutionary regimental buttons is the finest in existence. The work of the committee was done with scientific exactness, with accompanying maps, sketches and photographs and the resulting volume has been of the greatest use to students of military history, uniforms and equipment both here and in England. This field work was done in the nick of time for most of the sites explored in the New York area have since been obliterated by building operations.

The Society, always concerned with the preservation of the city's historical traditions, found that the proposed design for a new official city flag contained several historical inaccuracies, pointed them out to the city fathers and had the mistakes corrected; they agitated for the erection of a new Liberty Pole at City Hall Park on the site of that erected by the Revolutionary patriots and, with much ceremony and the aid of the Sons of the Revolution and city officials, this was done; they urged that the abandoned Post Office, which had been built on land originally on the southern tip of City Hall Park, be pulled down and the land returned to the park and, after much discussion, this too was accomplished; and they suggested that the city change the name of its most attractive and historically important house museum to "The Roger Morris House, Washington Headquarters" and no longer include in its title the name "of recent occupants or owners," which was a coy way of eliminating the familiar name of Madame Jumel whose reputation was picturesque but a little tarnished. This suggestion was also carried out officially but the name of the ancient Madame still clings to her old home nevertheless.

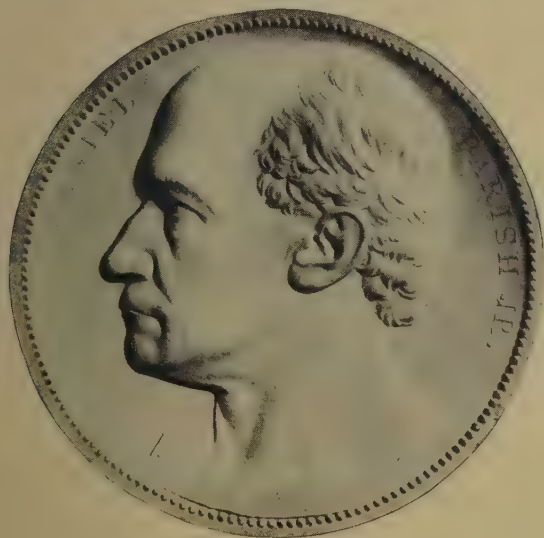
Gifts and occasional purchases continued to pour in to enrich the collections. Mr. Samuel Verplanck Hoffman, who had been the chief benefactor of the library and museum while he was President, came back on the Executive Committee in 1919 and

from then until his death in 1942 continued his lavish gifts to the Society, including rare books and prints, manuscripts, especially orderly books, paintings, Rogers groups and museum objects. His chief rival in generosity in this period was Daniel Parish, Jr., who died in 1914, leaving us over 21,000 slavery pamphlets, over 6,500 manuscripts and 1,200 photographs dealing with the Civil War. For years he had brought important additions to our library almost daily, the totals running to many thousands of volumes. He had a prophetic sense as to what would be of historical importance even though not popular among collectors at the time. Through him we secured a large number of Middle and Far Western titles of great rarity, early poetry, city directories, books on the Negro, the Civil War and Reconstruction, long before other collectors or libraries were interested in saving them. He joined the Society in 1882 and served on its Executive Committee from 1886 until his death, much of the time as its Chairman.

Let us glance at a few of the more important items received between 1913 and 1920. Among manuscripts we surely should mention that of Joel Barlow's *The Vision of Columbus*, 1787; the correspondence of Honorable James Duane, member of the Continental Congress and Mayor of New York following the Revolution; and the long run of the diary of Judge Daniel M. Durell, 1794-1845, which forms part of the over 2,000 papers of Judge Edward Henry Durell, 1794-1887, which came with his library of over 1,400 volumes. Continuing the record of books, we have the library of nearly 2,500 volumes from Isaac J. Greenwood of our Executive Committee; a collection of over 500 American World War I posters; two imperfect copies of the excessively rare first edition of Cadwallader Colden's *History of the Five Nations*, printed in New York by Bradford in 1727, which, like the Dutchman's two pairs of breeches, had holes in different places and so completely covered the subject; and the Robert R. Livingston English Family Bible with genealogical records in Dutch but with an English translation.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

The museum was made glad by the arrival of two millstones of the first Bark Mill of New Amsterdam, 1626, found on the present site of 32 South William Street; the silver Congressional Medal of Honor voted to John Paulding for his share in the capture of André; the chair used by Presidents Washington, Grant,



DANIEL PARISH, JR. (1838-1914)

Plaster bas-relief by Lea Ahlborn

Gift of the subject, 1914

and Garfield at their inaugurations; General Philip Schuyler's four-poster bed (in which Lafayette slept in 1824), his Revolutionary War camp chest and fourteen pieces of silver plate from his sideboard, as well as the two Civil War swords, spurs, revolver and belt of his namesake Major Philip Schuyler; a collection of over 300 Dutch household utensils and articles of furniture from Hurley, New York; and a collection of fifty New England candlesticks.

Many an important canvas found its way to the walls of the gallery, including the following portraits: Dr. Lazare Bayard

and his wife, the parents of Mrs. Peter Stuyvesant, of Stuyvesant's sister Anna and her husband Samuel Bayard standing before the family home in Holland (all brought to New Amsterdam by Director-General Peter himself); the famous series of Schuyler family portraits, including Captain Johannes Schuyler (1668-1747) and his wife, General Philip Schuyler by Trumbull, and three others of the family (a collection which was still further enlarged later on); seven portraits of the Abeel family, including the self-portrait of Gerret Duyckinck and his painting of his wife, Marie Abeel; the portrait of George Washington painted on marble by Archibald Robertson, together with four of the Robertson family by Archibald and Andrew Robertson; the extremely interesting miniatures of three former slaves of Monsieur Jean Bérard de Pithou of Haiti: Pierre Toussaint, his wife and niece, by Anton Meucci, together with the portrait of Madame Jean Bérard de Pithou who, having lost her fortune, was cared for and supported in New York by her former slave from his earnings as a hairdresser. There were also portraits of Asher B. Durand, the artist, and several members of his family, numerous landscapes and a large number of sketches by him. We also secured the important portrait of Caleb Heathcote (1666-1721), member of the Governor's Council and Proprietor of the Manor of Scarsdale in Westchester County; the very fine canvas of General Ebenezer Stevens of Washington's army, by Savage; also those of Colonel Andrew Ellicott, Surveyor General of the United States in 1792, and Mrs. Ellicott, both presumably by Jacob Eichholtz; and another of John Brown the abolitionist. Among prints we might mention the Hugh Reinagle view of Wall Street from Trinity Church, lithographed by Peter Maverick, Jr., in 1834, one of four copies of this charming and important view known to Stokes. Its donor was made a Fellow (today she would be made a Patron for this generous gift). We also received Joseph Pennell's splendid series of fifty lithographs of war work in America; and a valuable collection of over 1,300 negatives of photographs mostly in New York.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

Plans for Expansion (1921-1934)

During these fourteen hectic years we had four decidedly different personalities in the White House: Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The war with Germany was over in 1921; the Kellogg-Briand Pact, signed by 63 nations, attempted to outlaw war in 1928; the Reds consolidated their hold over Russia but were not recognized by the United States until 1933; an obscure Austrian paperhanger and draftsman named Adolf Schickelgruber took the name of Hitler and, in 1934, became the German Führer and set out to conquer the world. Here at home we started with a postwar boom which reached its height in 1928 and was followed by the most disastrous panic in our history, lasting until 1934, with business failures, suicides, and distress everywhere. The United States and Great Britain went off the gold standard, the government began nation-wide relief measures, the nationalization of business and public resources, and went into the power business with Boulder Dam in 1928. In the earlier years we had gangsterism with Al Capone, bootlegging and the speak-easy and a general moral let-down of which the Teapot Dome scandal was but an indication, with a gradual improvement after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933; Harding died mysteriously and conveniently and Coolidge took over to try to clean up the mess. We also had the Florida land boom and bust; *The Grapes of Wrath* and the flight of the Okies from the Dust Bowl; racial unrest and the return of the Ku Klux Klan.

On the brighter side, we learned of the discovery of insulin and the resultant control of diabetes; the isolation of vitamin C; and the gradual development of a more productive hybrid corn and the use of dry ice. The first practical cyclotron was built in 1932, heralding the atomic age; the first radio commercials appeared on station WEAJ in 1922; the RCA sent photographs transatlantic wireless two years later; the mechanical cotton-picker was invented in 1927 and in that year Al Jolson in *The*

Jazz Singer demonstrated the first talkies and we saw our first attempts at television. The next year Eastman exhibited the first movies in technicolor; and in 1929 the trailer was invented by Glenn H. Curtis and immediately became popular with thousands of the victims of the depression who were in search of new jobs and homes; and by 1934 the zipper fastened everything from purses to girdles. Lindbergh in *The Spirit of St. Louis* was the first to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1927 and Amelia Earhart the first woman to accomplish the same daring feat in 1932; while, in 1926, Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett flew over the North Pole; and three years later Byrd also crossed the South Pole in his plane. In 1926 Philadelphia held her Sesquicentennial Exposition; the following year John D. Rockefeller, Jr., began his great Colonial Williamsburg restoration and Gutzon Borglum carved the colossal faces of the four great Americans, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt, on Mount Rushmore.

Here in New York, the Holland Vehicular Tunnel under the Hudson was opened in 1927 and the Eighth Avenue Subway in 1932; the George Washington Bridge, Empire State Building, and new Waldorf-Astoria were finished in 1931 in spite of the depression; the unfit playboy-mayor, Jimmie Walker, was forced to resign and, in 1933, was replaced by the picturesque but honest Fiorello H. La Guardia, the popular "Little Flower" who ran to all the fires and read the funnies to the youngsters over the municipal radio. We were not without entertainment during these sad years, for Jones Beach was opened in 1929, the Radio City Music Hall in 1932, and the Dionne Quintuplets were born in 1934, though not here in the big city. If you enjoyed a good play you could see *What Price Glory*, *The Green Hat*, or *Desire Under the Elms* in 1925 or the tuneful *Show Boat* a couple of years later; or, if you preferred the flickering films, you could see Rudolph Valentino in *The Sheik* in 1921, *The Big Parade* in 1925, *Cavalcade* and *Tugboat Annie*, with Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery, in 1933. If you preferred to stay at home you



SOCIETY GUARD PROTECTING THE LAST TREE IN CENTRAL PARK

Cartoon of "Central Park Fifty Years from Now," N. Y. World, May 22, 1925
Original drawing by Rollin Kirby, the cartoonist

Gift of the New York World, 1925

could, if you wanted to, and some did, listen to Walter Winchell or *The Lone Ranger*; or you could read Sinclair Lewis' *Main Street*, H. G. Wells' *Outline of History*, Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* or, a little later, *Anthony Adverse* or Walter Boughton Pitkin's *Life Begins at Forty*. As you went down the street these years, if you were not too depressed by your finances, you might find yourself whistling *Yes, We Have No Bananas*, *Tea for Two*, *Old Man River*, *Stormy Weather*, or *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*.

The ancient history of the Society ended and modern history began when its Librarian, Robert Hendre Kelby (1847-1927), resigned on March 23, 1921, ending 53 years of loyal and efficient service during the period of the greatest growth of its collections. He had begun work in the Library in the old building on April 21, 1868, under his brother William, then Assistant Librarian and later the Librarian from 1893 to 1898. Robert H. Kelby succeeded his brother as Assistant Librarian in 1893 and as Librarian in 1899 and served faithfully until November 1920 when he suffered a stroke of paralysis and, though available for consultation at his home, was never able to return to the old Library he loved.²⁹ Mr. Kelby died on August 25, 1927. His portrait by Irving R. Wiles hangs in the Library over which he reigned for so many fruitful years. He was succeeded on April 19, 1921, the day he became Librarian Emeritus, by the Assistant Librarian, Alexander J. Wall, who had been 23 years with the library and was destined to serve it for another 23 years.³⁰ Under his administration the Society became a modern center for historical learning in the field of American history, perhaps the greatest of its kind.

The principal concern of the Society continued to be the need for the completion of the over-crowded building. The campaign for a building fund got under way in 1922 with a gift of \$20,000 from one of the Society's oldest members, the Duc de Loubat (Joseph F. Loubat) who had been made a Patron the previous year when he gave \$5,000 to mark his fiftieth year as a member.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

This brought the building fund up to about \$40,000 and made possible, in 1925, with the addition of funds realized from the sale of a block of Liberty Bonds, to buy the old home of Oscar Straus adjoining the Society's building on 76th Street. This addition of a plot measuring 50 by 102 feet gave us the necessary space on which to erect the south wing.

With that much progress made, tentative plans were drawn by York and Sawyer for the rest of the building and the Society studied the possibility of securing similar room for the north wing on 77th Street. A year later we finally secured the house at 4 West 77th Street, on a plot 25 by 102 feet in size, making it possible to go ahead with the completion of the building as soon as the money was available. But there was no immediate prospect of securing the million and a half necessary for that purpose.

The Society had vague hopes of some day securing a bequest of an unknown amount from the Thompson family. It was known that the Misses Elizabeth Gardiner and Mary Gardiner Thompson and their brother, Charles Griswold Thompson, children of David Thompson, at one time President of the New York Life Insurance Company, had drawn identical wills leaving a life interest in their property to each other and, after the deduction of specific bequests, that the residue was to be divided among institutions of which our Society was one. Miss Elizabeth Gardiner Thompson died November 17, 1913³¹ but it was not until 1938 that we received the last of our share of the bequest. It was worth waiting for, however, for the estate had grown in the quarter century and, in the end, was larger than had been anticipated.

There were several handsome bequests during this period, including that of George W. Van Slyck of over \$54,000, that of Ellen King of more than \$50,000, and thirteen other bequests totaling about \$60,000, all for the general endowment fund. We also received the most welcome bequest of James B. Wilbur of \$100,000 which was set aside as a special endowment for the purchase of books and manuscripts for the library.



ANNEX NO. 2 OF THE SOCIETY, 4 W. 77TH STREET, 1926
Built 1901-1902; purchased 1926; demolished 1937 for our North Wing
Formerly the home of Louis Fleischmann, 1901-1926

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

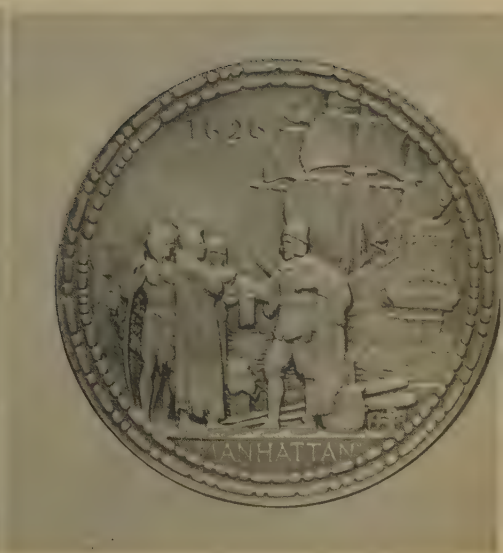
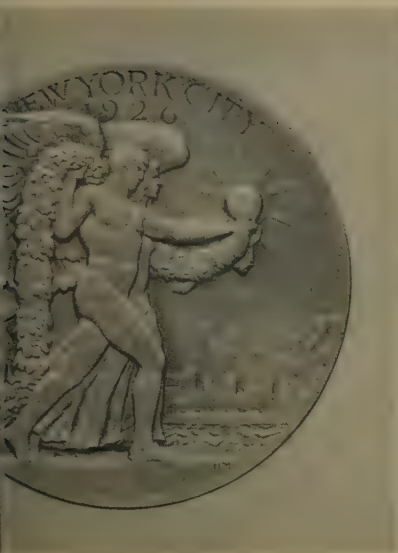
With our endowment increasing it became desirable to use some of the income for building construction and so the Legislature passed a *Supplemental Act of Exemption* on April 4, 1927, allowing the Society to own properties yielding an annual income, above the cost of operating the Society, of \$200,000, instead of the former limit of \$100,000. We could then apply the surplus towards building construction. In 1929 George A. Zabriskie, who had joined the Board in 1926, was made Treasurer and, as we shall see, it was his skillful handling of our funds which made it possible eventually to build the additions largely from income and the profits on investments without dipping too deeply into our principal. He had plenty of opportunity to show his skill during the depression years, for a large proportion of our principal was invested in real estate and mortgages. By 1933 the situation was really serious, for the properties on which the Society held participation mortgage certificates were mostly in arrears as to taxes, interest, and installments of principal, and as a consequence both Mr. Zabriskie and Mr. Wall spent much of their time in business conferences and in the courts trying to salvage what they could from the "deplorable mortgage situation," as the Executive Committee called it in November 1933. However, we weathered the emergency without loss of principal or income and that was an achievement.

Mr. Zabriskie, himself a skilled amateur finisher of beautiful bookbindings, was greatly interested in our need for a bindery of our own and so he purchased and gave to the Society the complete equipment and all the necessary supplies for a modern bindery, which began operation in May 1929 with one binder and a girl to do the sewing (she is still at it after 25 years). To his initial gift Mr. Zabriskie added \$10,000 for the maintenance of the bindery, in addition to the Howland Gallatin Pell Binding Fund of \$2,000 and the Susan M. Watson Binding Fund of \$3,000. Our present bindery has a staff of two men and three women and turns out a large amount of the best library binding for us every year.

Our Library was busy in many ways in addition to the processing of incoming materials and the serving of an ever-increasing clientele. By 1924 it had secured photostats of all of the missing issues of its New York City newspapers through 1783, the end of the Revolution, and had supplied photostat files of many of them to subscribing libraries. A series of American history talks to local high schools was given in 1925 from the municipal broadcasting studio, synchronized with the showing in the various schools of lantern slides provided by the Society. This beginning of the use of radio has been continued to the present time, and in recent years we have added the frequent use of television in our educational work.

Our most interesting publication of these years was the extremely valuable *Uniforms of the War of the Revolution*, by Charles M. Lefferts, 1926, a collection of fifty colored plates with text, the only comprehensive book on the subject. The Society had given Mr. Allan Nevins permission to edit a new edition of the usable parts of the famous Hone Diary in our possession which appeared in two volumes; and had allowed Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the Minnesota Historical Society to prepare a most useful calendar in two volumes of our great collection of American Fur Company papers, perhaps the most important body of business documents in the country, certainly so far as the pioneer history of the Northwestern States is concerned. This collection, which consists of some 100 letter books and 15,000 separate letters and documents for the years 1831 to 1849, was purchased by the Society in 1863 from John D. Clute, for many years a trustee of Astor's American Fur Company, for \$80, or ten dollars per chest for the eight chests in which they were originally stored. This collection has been recently microfilmed for a group of subscribing libraries in the Northwestern States where the famous old company operated.³²

In 1925 the Society established an annual prize of \$300 to be awarded to the member of the Junior Class of Columbia University who wrote the best essay on a designated topic of American



COMMEMORATING THE TERCENTENARY OF THE PURCHASE OF MANHATTAN, 1626-1926
 struck for The New-York Historical Society and the American Numismatic Society

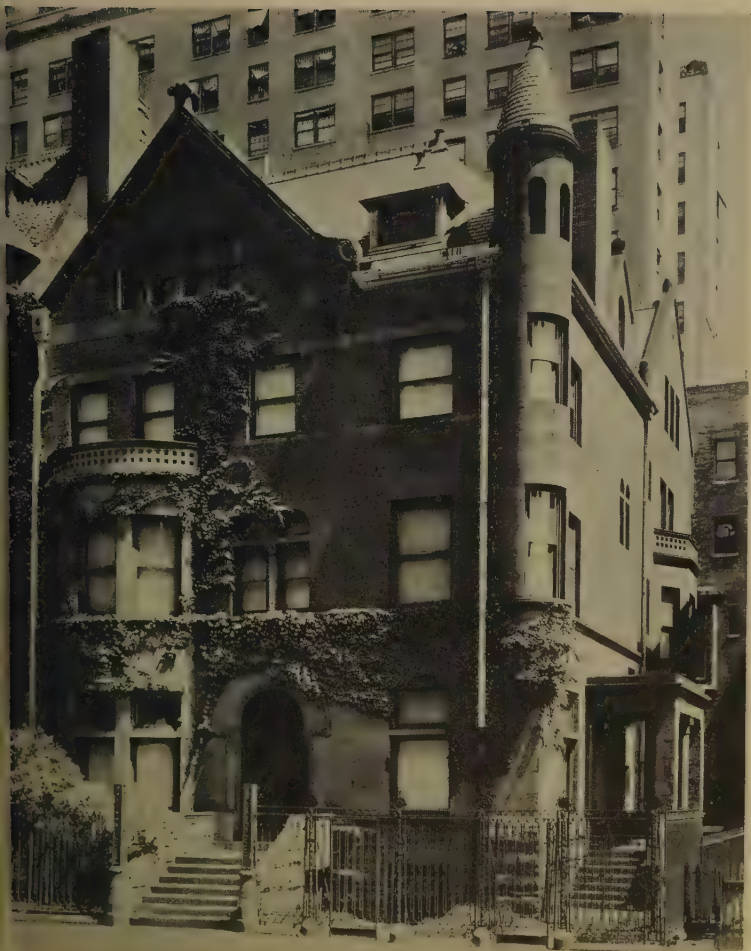
Designed by Herman A. MacNeil 1926

story. In 1930 the competition was thrown open to Seniors as well as Juniors, with two prizes, one of \$250 and the other of \$100, but the contest did not prove popular with the undergraduates and, in 1933, was abandoned for lack of funds. Also in 1925 the Society inaugurated an award in the form of a Gold Medal for Achievement in History to be given from time to time to outstanding scholars. Five of these awards have been made and it is planned to present another in this Sesqui-Centennial year of 1925. In 1933 President Weekes and former President Hoffman were given the Society's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service which they richly deserved. The ceremonies connected with these awards will be found in the final chapter of this volume. In 1925 we also joined with the American Numismatic Society in issuing a medal by Herman A. MacNeil to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the purchase of Manhattan

Island, 1626-1926. In 1933 our new building at 4 West 77th Street was opened as an annex to the museum with a display of material relative to the history of our navy; and the following year our other annex at 5 West 76th Street showed an exhibit of household implements.

Work on the Egyptian collection continued from year to year. In 1923 Mrs. Arthur S. Richardson, formerly of the Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum, was appointed Curator of the collection, to begin June 1, 1924, replacing Mrs. Grant Williams who retired and became Honorary Curator. She began at once on a catalogue of the jewelry in the collection which was completed and ordered to be printed in December 1930. This ended her work for the Society and the Society's investment in the Egyptian collection on which it had spent close to \$60,000 since 1916. The collection of over 2,000 objects was catalogued and photographed and the best of it was placed on exhibition. Our final contribution to the field of Egyptian scholarship was the publication of the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus, translated by Professor James H. Breasted and published in two sumptuous volumes in 1930 by the University of Chicago Press. The actual printing was done by the Oxford University Press since there was no font of hieroglyphic type in America. The cost of the preparation of these volumes was borne by the Society and the printing was financed through a grant from the General Education Board.

In May 1936 the Society received a letter from Mr. Philip N. Youtz, Director of the Brooklyn Museum, unofficially suggesting that the Society deposit its Egyptian collection with them. Since we were planning the completion of our building and needed all available space for the display of materials relating to American history, we were immediately interested in Mr. Youtz's suggestion, especially since the collection would remain in Greater New York and would be far better displayed than we could hope to do in our limited space. By October we were negotiating with our friends in Brooklyn for the loan to them not only of the



ANNEX NO. 1 OF THE SOCIETY, 5 W. 76TH STREET, 1936
Built 1891-1892; demolished 1937 as site for our South Wing
Formerly the home of Hon. Oscar S. Straus, 1901-1925



MUMMIFIED BULLS IN DEXTER HALL AS IT USED TO BE

Before the Society transferred its Egyptian Collection in 1937 to Brooklyn Museum

gyptian collection but the Lenox marble has reliefs from Nineveh, our small but choice collection of pre-Columbian Central and South American Indian artifacts, and our equally important small collection of weapons and implements of the Indians of the Western plains. By the end of the year negotiations were completed and, early in 1937, the collections were on their way to Brooklyn. In 1948 all but the Nineveh marbles were purchased by the Brooklyn Museum where they form an important part of the collections of that attractive and intelligently operated institution.

The status of the Society as an educational institution was established when the State Legislature passed a bill (Chapter 208 of the Laws of New York State for 1928) to remedy the wording of our original act of incorporation of 1809. This act had failed the state in so many words that "education" was one of the purposes of the Society, though its activities had been purely educational from the beginning. As soon as the Society was legally established as an educational institution its benefactors were exempt from paying State taxes on gifts and bequests, a matter of vital concern to us. We were already recognized by the Federal laws as educational and therefore tax exempt, so this new State law made it easy for our friends to be generous. And how generous they were is very evident from the following partial list of acquisitions for the years 1920 through 1934.

Among manuscripts we would mention the important Bancker family papers, 1718-1841, in fifteen volumes and 415 separate letters; the DePeyster family papers, 1682-1827, in 26 volumes and 1,800 separate pieces; the literary and business papers of Julian C. Verplanck, 1811-1868, totalling 2,000 pieces; the small but important collection of 15 papers of Mayor Cornelius A. Verplanck, 1658-1684; dozens of Revolutionary orderly books, including those of Sir William Howe, 1776-1777, and other papers of the period, given by President Hoffman; the 800 Stillwell family papers relating to colonial New York and New

Jersey; the large and very important collection of official papers of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church; 1,000 letters, diaries, and notebooks of John Pintard; over 600 architectural drawings of A. J. Davis; 1,000 maps and surveys of New York City by Gardner Avery Sage, 1835-1870, the gift of Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman; 1,000 New York business papers, 1738-1819, and over 500 eighteenth-century New York City inventories and land papers; and, most important of all, a great collection of Cadwallader Colden papers, including the revised manuscript of his *History of the Five Nations* with its unpublished third part, which Mr. Wall was sent to London to purchase, all of which (excepting the scientific treatises) were published by the Society.

The Library was greatly enriched by the gift of the unsurpassed Bella C. Landauer Business and Professional Collection, a collection which still continues to grow through the generosity and enthusiasm of its founder. This collection of hundreds of thousands of pieces is now housed in its own room and is in constant use by business historians. Another of the more important collections ever given the Society's library was that of the Naval History Society, containing over 3,500 books, besides prints, relics and a distinguished collection of naval manuscripts including the log books of John Paul Jones' *Alliance* and *Ariel* and the *Serapis*, after he captured her; the correspondence of Commodore John Barry and of Isaac Hull, including three logbooks of the Frigate *Constitution*. With this magnificent collection came a fund of over \$15,000 to be used in purchasing other materials on the history of our Navy.

We were also given the Loyal Legion Civil War Library of 4,000 volumes, including a large collection of regimental histories; the very important Otto Spengler collection of World War I clippings, mounted in 400 folio volumes, the gift of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; hundreds of volumes of early newspapers, many of them unique; a set of 175 volumes of the Massachusetts Historical Society series of rare American books and

8 broadsides in photostat; the Meserve collection of actual Civil War photographs, including Lincoln, mounted in 28 folio volumes (one of four sets made); and subscriptions to the huge British Museum and Bibliothèque Nationale catalogues, both of which are still being published.

Many family heirlooms came to the Museum, including silver, furniture, costumes, military equipment and household utensils. Two hand-pumper fire-engines, a hose cart and a fine collection of fire buckets, helmets, and other volunteer fire-fighting apparatus arrived, to the delight of small boys who visit our basement. Our collection of Rogers Groups grew rapidly, because of the enthusiasm of Mr. Hoffman. A choice collection of 47 pottery busts and figurines of Washington, Franklin, and Lafayette came as a bequest; and the St. Nicholas Society put in our perpetual care the copper weathervane, c.1656, of the old Dutch merchant Huys of New Amsterdam which, at a later date, adorned Washington Irving's "Sunnyside" until he presented it to its present owners. Once a year they borrow it back to adorn the table at their annual banquet on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day. And, speaking of Washington Irving, we also received the famous Salmagundi Punch Bowl once used by Irving and his cronies in their intellectual (and convivial) gatherings at Cockloft Hall. One of the choicest historical pieces received was the desk at which General Washington sat when he reluctantly wrote the order for the execution of Major André as a spy. Perhaps next in interest is the beautiful wing chair of Sir William Johnson which he gave to his best friend, Colonel James Livingston, from whose family it came to us. We must also mention the joyous family silver tankard, china, swords, and other heirlooms; the Nash collection of 117 pieces of American pewter from Hurley, New York; General Philip Schuyler's gold watch, revolutionary pistol, and other relics; the wonderful R. A. Reed collection of silver wine-labels; DeWitt Clinton's Masonic regalia and three links of the famous Revolutionary Hudson River chain.

The art galleries were not forgotten in this period for, among many others, we received more than fifty oil portraits, important to us for their subjects and for the artists who made them. How can we choose among so many treasures? The following, at least, cannot be omitted. The largest single gift was the collection of portraits of Aaron Burr by Vanderlyn, Inman, and James Van Dyck and Burr's death mask, two portraits of his daughter Theodosia, both by Vanderlyn, and fifteen portraits of the Stillwell family, eight of them oils, including two of Mrs. William E. Stillwell, one by Pine and the other by Wightman, all the gift of Dr. John E. Stillwell.

Of important early portraits we have those of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Van Alstyne (the latter the lady with two right hands!), attributed to Pieter Vanderlyn; those of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Bancker by John Durand; Barent Rynders (we already had the companion portrait of his wife), perhaps by Evert Duyckinck, 3d.; those of Mr. and Mrs. Gerardus Duyckinck by Lawrence Kilburn, and a copy of the portrait of Cornelius Tiebout in his garden by an unknown artist from the destroyed original probably by Kilburn; those of Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Schuyler and Augustine Hicks Lawrence by Stuart; nine other later Schuyler portraits; and Samuel Jaudon, banker, by Sully. There are also the important three-quarters-length portrait and the head of Abraham Lincoln, both by Marshall; Secretary William L. Marcy by Kittell; Patrick Henry (the Aylett portrait), artist unknown; John Pintard by Waldo and Jewett (our frontispiece); George P. Morris, poet and editor, by Ingham; and Frances S. Osgood, poet, by Healy. It was in 1930 that our Recording Secretary, DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., offered to paint for the Society the series of portraits more fully mentioned in the final chapter.

Among the miniatures is the important watercolor of Thomas Jefferson by Field; Robert Fulton's copy of his own portrait by Elizabeth Emmet; his portrait of Mrs. Fulton; Evert Bancker, by Ebenezer Mack; John Park by Dunlap; and Elkanah Watson,

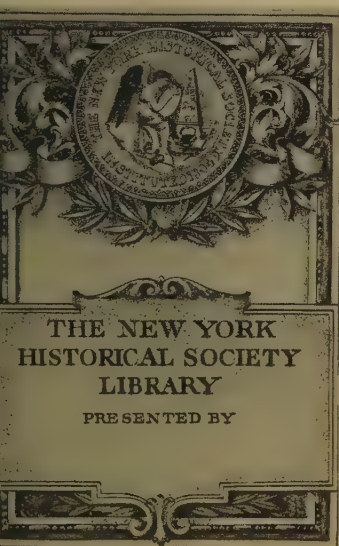
THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

tist unknown. We must also mention the important silhouette of George Washington, 1795, by Folwell.

Among the other paintings we would single out the view of the Hudson Valley from Fort Clinton by George H. Boughton; 6 paintings of Hudson River and Long Island Sound steamboats of 1837 to 1876 by John and Thomas Bard; and fifty watercolors of Greater New York scenes, the gift of T. O. Fraenkel. Among drawings we find one of the steamboat *Raritan* by Robert Fulton and a volume of architectural drawings by Colonel John Trumbull.

The Print Room received the Edmund Allen Cruikshank collection of nearly 500 New York City prints, 17 maps and four drawings which we had exhibited earlier as a loan; a collection of nearly 400 engravings of distinguished Americans, the

gift of Albert Rosenthal; the excessively rare Evers view of General Theological Seminary, 1841, of which the Seminary does not own a copy and which Stokes could locate only in the Arnold collection, now owned by the Metropolitan Museum. We also secured the attractive and very rare set of twenty lithographic views of New York issued by Henry Hoff in 1850.³³ Our bookplate collection, which is a very fine one, was enriched by the addition of 3,000 American bookplates, the gift of Mrs. Bella C. Landauer—the beginning of her great generosity to the Society; and another collection of 1,400 plates which came from



THE SOCIETY'S BOOKPLATE

Signed: "A N M[acdona]ld 1927"

Commissioned for the Society
by Mrs. Bella C. Landauer

Mr. J. M. Andreini. A collection of photographs of famous actors and actresses, 1865-1890, was given in memory of Gertrude B. Weed; and Harold Seton gave us his interesting collection of photographs of guests dressed in costume for the famous ball given by Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt in 1883.

Our Building Is Completed (1935-1939)

While we were busy with our own small affairs the world was approaching the abyss of another World War. Italy defeated and annexed little Ethiopia, the Rome-Berlin axis was formed, and Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany. By the Munich agreement, Germany was allowed to take over the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in 1938 and the following spring Hitler invaded that little country of fierce but helpless patriots and annexed Bohemia and Moravia. In quick succession, Italy invaded Albania, Germany overran Poland, and World War II was on. And the King of England abdicated to become the Duke of Windsor and marry Wallace Simpson.

Here at home there had been a gradual recovery from the panic of 1929; then another of lesser severity came on us. Having called the other a Depression, we softened the blow this time by calling it a Recession but it caused hardship just the same. The W.P.A. was devised to create jobs for the needy in 1935; the Social Security Act gave comfort to the poor and the aged and we were saddled with inheritance, gift, surtax, and corporate income taxes to help finance the growing Federal control of the country under F.D.R. In 1937 the President tried the universally unpopular device of packing the Supreme Court but was not allowed to get away with it; and the C.I.O. adopted a constitution and became a power with John L. Lewis as President. The Philippines had finally won commonwealth status by 1935 and Thomas E. Dewey was looming on the political horizon while he curtailed the independence of the New York gangsters. Sulfa drugs were bringing relief to the sick from 1936 on and, in 1939,

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

lon stockings were replacing the no-longer-obtainable silk ones. That year San Francisco and New York had very successful world's fairs; television was first publicly broadcast from the Empire State Building on April 30th and two months later there was regular transatlantic air-passenger service. New York and New England weathered the great hurricane of 1938 and here at home, two years earlier, the Triborough and Henry Hudson bridges were opened, trolleys vanished from Broadway, they started to dig the Sixth Avenue subway, and millions of people read *Gone With the Wind*. In 1937 they opened the Lincoln Tunnel and you could listen to Charlie McCarthy on the radio. Two years later, in addition to the World's Fair on Flushing Meadow, you could see *Life With Father* at the old Empire Theatre or hear Kate Smith sing Irving Berlin's *God Bless America* for which he later got a well-deserved Congressional medal.

The Society was now about to come into its era of greatest prosperity. Up to this time we had generally been in need of greater funds for the enlargement of our various homes. They always seemed to be too small to hold our steadily increasing sessions, and our resources were never adequate for the proper endowment of our activities. As 1935 opened, the wingless building was jammed to the doors and its exhibition and storage space crowded almost beyond endurance. Through generous bequests the endowment had been considerably enlarged but, at the beginning of 1935, there were only seven members of the professional staff and there seemed little hope for the enlargement of activities or for the raising of the hopelessly large sum needed to complete the building on the lots we had so recently secured. Then the tide turned.

On May 15, 1907, the Misses Elizabeth Gardiner Thompson, Mary Gardiner Thompson, and Mr. Charles Griswold Thompson, children of David Thompson, former President of the New York Life Insurance Company, drew virtually identical wills which, after certain specific bequests to relatives, left a life in-



OVERCROWDED PORTRAIT ROOM, 1928

Before the building of the Society's present galleries in 1917-1918

rest to each other and the residuary estate of the survivor in equal shares to the following institutions: The Children's Aid Society, The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, The New-York Historical Society, The Society of the New York Hospital, The Presbyterian Hospital in the City of New York, and The Trustees of Columbia College in the City of New York. Miss Elizabeth Gardiner Thompson died November 17, 1913; her brother, Charles Griswold Thompson, on December 8, 1919; and the remaining sister, Miss Mary Gardiner Thompson, on April 22, 1935, at the age of 91 years.³⁴ Through their mother, the Thompson brother and sisters were descended from Lyon Gardiner, the seventeenth-century founder of the family estate at Gardiner's Island, east of Long Island. From their princely bequest our Society eventually secured, between 1935 and 1942, the net amount of \$4,633,915.92, part of which was used for the completion and equipment of the Society's building, leaving as an endowment the sum of \$3,077,769.44.

Though the Society did not at once realize the full amount of its good fortune, enough was in prospect to warrant the completion of the building, and the first payments in 1935 were welcome indeed in that period of depression and financial insecurity. Wages were raised, two more librarians and several other employees hired, bringing the total to 24, but, as the Society's sights were raised, it aimed at a staff of 75 which it eventually achieved. As a beginning, York and Sawyer were instructed to prepare plans for the south wing and alterations to Dexter Hall to make it harmonize with the new construction. Then there came another installment of the Thompson bequest and the Executive Committee felt warranted in planning for both wings at the same time. They called a special meeting of the entire Society for June 16, 1936, at which the completion of the building was officially authorized. In October, Walker and Gillette were chosen as architects and the Turner Construction Company as builders; the two annexes were pulled down to make way for the



WEST 76TH STREET BUILDINGS OF THE SOCIETY, 1938
Nos. 13, 11, 9, and 7 (demolished for the present garden)

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

new wings; and plans were completed with the advice of Mr. Philip N. Youtz, President of the American Federation of Arts, and with the constant aid of a very able building committee composed of John A. Weekes, President of the Society, Robert E. Dowling, Chairman, George A. Zabriskie, DeWitt M. Lockman, Augustus C. Hone, LeRoy E. Kimball, Dr. Fenwick Beekman, and the Society's Librarian, Alexander J. Wall, Secretary, whose advice and hard work were everywhere apparent.

The building was closed on May 1, 1937, the paintings and many other treasures were put in storage or packed into the auditorium, and the contractors went to work. In the meantime Mr. Zabriskie, at his personal expense, took Librarian Wall on a tour of Europe "in search of light." They visited fifty museums in England, France, and Holland and came back with the latest ideas in museum construction and installation which were immediately applied to the construction and equipment of the new building. They were especially successful in the ideas they evolved for the efficient lighting of museum galleries and when the new skylights were installed they were the best in the country and museum executives came frequently to study them.

Late in 1937 the Society bought numbers 7-13 West 76th Street, adjoining our building, which gave us an additional 100-foot front on that street. These buildings were demolished the following year to provide a garden and to be used eventually for an addition to the building. Construction work was finished in 1938, including the renovating of the old building, the erection of the two new wings, and the construction of a fifteen-tier book stack at the rear of the building, at a total cost, to February 1939, of \$1,702,293.60, a considerable part of which was paid from income and skillful reinvestment of securities by our wise treasurer.

The completed building was reopened by a preview to the members of the Board and their families, the directors and curators of nearby libraries and museums, and the press on March 29, 1939, followed on the 30th by a special Members' Day, and on April 1st by the official opening for the public. These days of

prideful jubilation will be found more fully described in the final chapter.

The additions to the building tripled our exhibition space, gave us much-needed additional storage and work rooms, including adequate offices, larger quarters for the bindery, a studio for the painting restorer, a large, well-lighted map and print room, a special room for the Landauer Collection of Business and Professional History, a room for the manuscript department, two historically important period rooms from the Beekman Mansion, a special gallery for costumes, room for double the number of readers in the Library, better seats and an organ in the auditorium, special first-floor galleries for the Rogers Groups, the Naval History Collection, a Port of New York Gallery and, in the basement, more space for the display of our collection of volunteer fire apparatus and oldtime vehicles.

The Society went to work immediately to build up an adequate staff by the addition of a Librarian (Mr. Wall having become Director), an Editor, Art and Museum Curators, and a Supervisor of Education and Public Relations; a Bibliographer, a Reference Librarian, and Curators of Manuscripts, Newspapers, Maps and Prints; as well as additional accessionists, cataloguers, reading-room and museum assistants, including museum and picture-frame restorers. The photographic staff of two was adequate but we added to our bindery and maintenance staffs until we had a total of 48 employees in 1938 and later nearly the 75 employees deemed necessary for the proper operation of the completed building. We were, at last, able to welcome the thousands of visitors and hundreds of research workers who immediately began to enjoy and use our beautiful new building.

As a richly merited reward for his generosity and his skillful handling of the funds during the Depression, for his administration of the Thompson Bequest and the financing of the building fund, the Society's Treasurer, Mr. George A. Zabriskie, was given the Society's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in 1937 and, two years later, a grateful Board of Trustees presented their



PRESENT HOME OF THE SOCIETY

Cornerstone laid, 1903; occupied, 1908; enlarged, 1937-1938

View from Central Park at 77th Street, 1948

Director, Mr. Alexander J. Wall, with a beautiful inscribed silver bowl "In appreciation of his skill, knowledge, and unremitting effort in planning and carrying through the transition from the Old Building to the New, April 1, 1939."

President John A. Weekes, then in his 83d year, had been in failing health for some time but he was determined to stay on until his cherished task was completed and the new building opened to the public on April 1st. His resignation, which was accepted "with deep regret," took effect two days later and within a month he had died, thus ending the longest and one of the most loyal and fruitful administrations in the Society's history.

With a larger building and an increased endowment came greater responsibility for the Society's governing body. The Executive Committee had realized for some time that their administrative set-up was antiquated and so, on November 18,

1937, they called what was to be the last general business meeting of the members of the Society to consider certain revisions of the by-laws. The *Annual Report* for 1937, page 10, gives this account of the meeting:

The revision of the by-laws, which was adopted at the special meeting [by a vote of 269 to 2], changed the name of the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees, and the title of Librarian to Director. It also placed the election of the officers of the Society and the complete control of the Society's affairs in the Board of Trustees. In the past twenty years the election of officers was conducted almost wholly by proxy, and barely a quorum of members attended such elections in person. The responsibility for the conducting of the Society's affairs lay with the Executive Committee, whose members devoted many hours of service every year to the work gratis. Now with the added responsibility of the proposed enlarged activities, and increased financial resources, it was deemed advisable to submit to the members the question of placing the Society under the same Trustee management control as in other kindred educational institutions [such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History]. It is a matter of much satisfaction to record that the voting members readily adopted the revised by-laws, thereby serving the best interests of the Society.

With the prospect of larger facilities for storage, consultation, and display and with the Wilbur Fund available for the purchase of library material, it was to be expected that many valuable manuscripts, rare books and prints and especially the all-important files of rare newspapers should reach our shelves. One of the most important manuscripts ever given the Society was Charles II's letters patent to Governor Edmond Andros authorizing him to take over New Netherland from the Dutch, 1674. This fundamental document of our history, signed by the King, was presented by William Evarts Benjamin and with it came a letterbook of Commodore John Barry and two important naval logbooks. For this notable gift Mr. Benjamin was promptly elected a Patron of the Society. From other sources came the large and important collection of military papers of the Revolutionary War patriot, Colonel John Lamb, including letters, military returns and orderly books, 1765-1800; twelve volumes and nearly 3,000 separate papers having to do with the management

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

Castle Garden while it was a concert hall and entertainment center, 1840-1860; the 281 valuable Abram S. Hewitt and Cooper & Hewitt letterbooks, 1848-1915; and the personal papers of General Franz Sigel, the popular Civil War hero of the German citizens of New York, numbering over a thousand pieces, 1849-1902, besides books and photographs.

The rare books of these years include such delectable dainties as these: *A Libell of Spanish Lies*, London, 1596; the following books printed by William Bradford, first printer of New York and Philadelphia, all but the first printed in New York: Thomas Budd's *Good Order Established in Pennsylvania & New-Jersey*, 1685, one of a dozen copies located; *News of a Trumpet Sound-
ing in the Wilderness*, 1697; *Gospel Order Revived*, 1700; and the official copies, together with contemporary manuscripts, sent by Lord Cornbury to Queen Anne, of: *An Account of the Illegal Prosecution and Tryal of Coll. Nicholas Bayard, in the Province of New-York, for Supposed High-Treason*, 1702 (only perfect copy in America), *A Narative of the Treatment Coll. Bayard Received*, 1702 (only other known copy in the Public Records Office, London), and the accompanying: *An Account of the Commitment, Arraignment, Tryal and Condemnation of Nicholas Bayard, Esq.; for High Treason*, London, 1703.⁸⁵ We also secured John Mason's important: *Brief History of the Pequot War*, Boston, 1736; John Bartram's: *Observations on the Inhabitants, Climate, Soil . . . in his Travels from Pensilvania to Onondago, Oswego and the Lake Ontario . . .* London, 1751; the very rare and important: *A Set of Plans and Forts in America*, London, published by Mary Ann Rocque, 1765; and *The Causes of the Present Distractions in America Explained . . .* By F—— B—— [Benjamin Franklin?], New York, 1774.

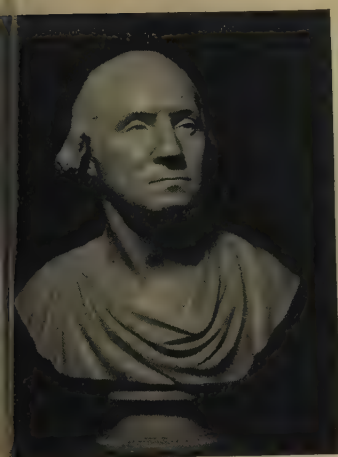
The notable oil portraits added at this time include those of Governor Robert Hunter painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller about 1720; Reverend and Mrs. John Livingston, ancestors of the American family, by a Dutch artist of about 1660; Anne Van Rensselaer, wife of John Schuyler, born in 1719 and painted

about 1730-1740 by an unknown Hudson Valley artist; the Marquis de Lafayette by Casanova, the gift of our new Board member, Mr. Forsyth Wickes; Reverend John Henry Livingston, by Stuart, and his wife by Savage; an unsigned portrait of Jedidiah Morse, the famous geographer; several additions to our Durand collection, together with a \$5,000 gift for their maintenance; General Winfield Scott, by George Catlin; and Miss Mary Gardiner Thompson, our Benefactor, by Daniel Huntington. Among the numerous miniatures we should include those of Henry Benson and Colonel Richard Platt, by Ramage; and that of Henry Bedlow, by Archibald Robertson.

Among interesting paintings of New York City the following are very attractive: two of the famous fire of 1835, by Calvo; Castle Garden, painted about 1850; New York Bay, by Moran; and an oil painting of High Bridge across the Harlem river by an unknown artist. The James Boyd collection of 460 etchings of New York City views, 1860-1935, was a notable gift and so was the collection of 1,000 studio photographs by Pach Brothers of distinguished New Yorkers of the past seventy years. We also received a marble bust of George Washington, by Thomas Crawford, and signed plaster busts of him by Houdon and John Rogers. The purchase of the latter's collection of 35 of his own bronze groups and the gift by his family of much of his collection of professional papers, immediately put us in the forefront of collectors of the work of this distinguished artist and three-dimensional historian. Our collection now lacks but three of his eighty published works and includes many which were never offered for sale. The sculptor's daughter has recently given us a large and important collection of her father's letters to his family, giving many details of his life and career.

By the purchase of the Elie Nadelman Folk Art Collection in 1937 we added nearly 18,000 pieces to our Museum, thus giving us an outstanding ready-made collection in this important field. As soon as the building was reopened the best pieces were exhibited and created much interest which has

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY



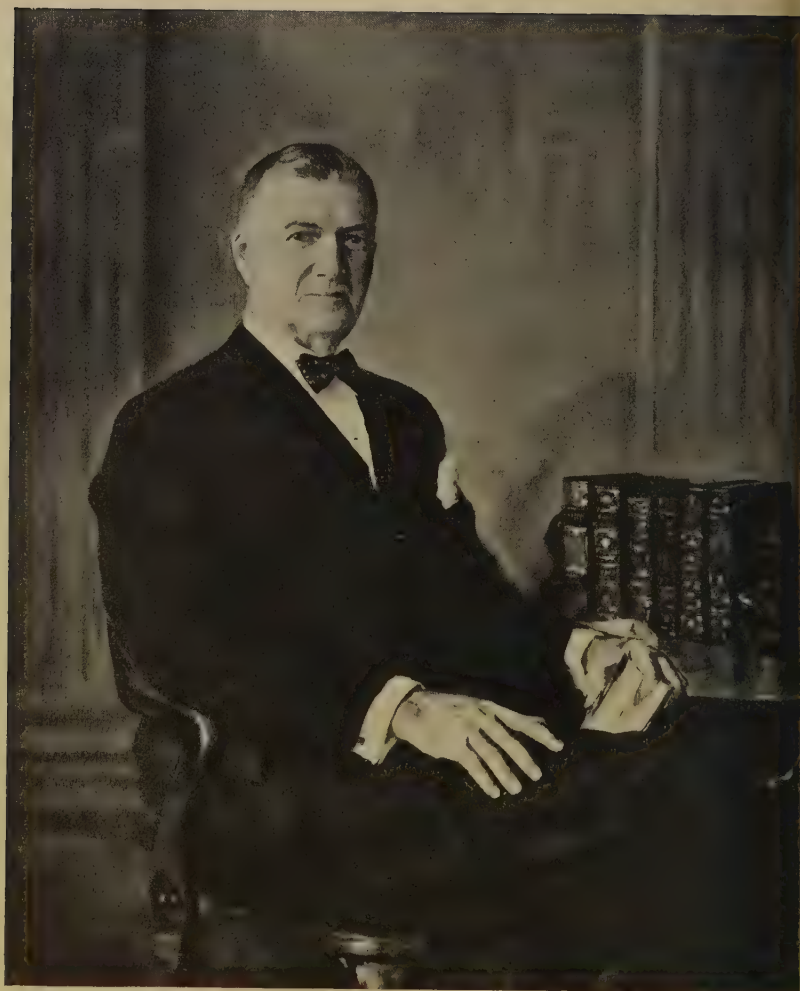
BUST OF WASHINGTON

Signed: "Houdon f. 1778"

Purchased by the Society, 1937

continued throughout the years. Many of them, however, were of European origin and were eventually sold to good advantage, leaving us with the American pieces and certain European prototypes needed for comparison.

Our collection of early silver was notably improved by the gift by Perry Belmont of 391 pieces from the set of tableware given to Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry by the Chamber of Commerce and merchants of New York for opening Japan in 1854. This is almost the complete set given Perry in 1855, except for a few pieces given the local Historical Society of Newport, Perry's birthplace. The Peter Grim heirlooms added a smaller but earlier collection of thirty pieces of family silver, together with a hundred other heirlooms of this interesting early New York family. Our Trustee, Stephen H. P. Pell, gave us a unique ironbound leather helmet of the New York City Guard with the inscription: "Stadt Huis 1702" which was found in the attic of an old Brooklyn house. Our carriage collection was greatly enriched by the generous gift of eleven carriages of various types made by Brewster and Company for the Fahnestock family, the gift of Harris Fahnestock, three more from the Misses Edith and Maud K. Wetmore, and the famous coach, *The Pioneer*, of the Coaching Club of New York, secured through the good offices of Mr. Reginald Rives. The famous eighteenth-century Beekman family coach was also restored and added to the exhibition of early vehicles in the basement. And in 1938 the two historically important rooms from the Beekman Mansion, given to us in 1911, were installed in the museum.



GEORGE ALBERT ZABRISKIE (1868-1954)
Twenty-second President of the Society, 1939-1947
By Henry R. Rittenberg, 1941
Gift of George A. Zabriskie, 1941

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

GEORGE ALBERT ZABRISKIE (1868-1954)

TWENTY-SECOND PRESIDENT (1939-1947)

George Albert Zabriskie, of seventeenth-century American stock, was born in New York City on December 7, 1868, and from the age of eleven earned his own way. He became learned through his own efforts and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by Rollins College in 1942 and was, in the words of the citation, "a wise executive, generous philanthropist, artist and craftsman, scholarly historian and great merchant of material things, but greater merchant of good will among men." Engaging in the flour business, he became local New York representative of the Pillsbury Flour Company and one of its directors. At one time he handled a majority of the barrels of flour used in this city and sent ship-loads to South American ports. He was associated with the Empire Biscuit Company and was Chairman of the Board of the Columbia Baking Company until his death. Many of his friends will remember the delicious fruit cakes which he sent them annually at Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as the baskets of fruit from his winter home in Florida.

During World War I, Mr. Zabriskie was a member of the Sugar Equalization Board and also Flour Administrator through which service he helped Herbert Hoover save countless lives in Europe when they were threatened with starvation. For these services he was decorated by Belgium, Poland, and Iceland. He was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of the War of 1812, and was one of the most distinguished presidents of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. He was a man of many delightful hobbies, among them the collecting of works of art and rare books, the writing and publishing of charming Christmas books which he took delight in sending each year to his many friends; he painted watercolors and oils, was a maker of etchings and lithographs, and many a public and private library contains the beautifully bound books which he skillfully finished with his own hands.

"George A. Zabriskie's greatest interest, however, was centered in The New-York Historical Society to which he was elected a life member on October 19, 1920. From then to the time of his death, for over thirty-four years, his devotion was continuous as shown by the time and money he gave to the Society—his frequent gifts of items of art, museum material, books, maps and prints, and of funds such as a donation to establish a bindery. Because of this outstanding generosity, he was elected a Fellow in 1928 and a Patron in 1929.

"Serving as Treasurer for ten years until April 18, 1939, when he was raised to the Presidency of the Society, an office held for eight years, he gave liberally of his services. His most important achievements occurred while he was Treasurer during a time when the plant and opera-

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

tions of the Society underwent rapid expansion, the result of the sudden acquisition of wealth. Showing exceptional financial judgment in investing the Society's moneys, he was able to pay a large part of the construction costs of the building from increased values of the principal sums, as well as establish an endowment fund that earned an income which more than covered the operations of the Society

"His discernment and sound advice while planning the building, with recognition of important details of construction and formal supervision of the actual work, accomplished much in making the building and its furnishings the most outstanding of its kind

"As President he showed his leadership in directing the affairs of the Society in a judicious and kindly manner, guiding the activities of the Board of Trustees for the benefit of the public and advancement of American history.

"The Board awarded him the Society's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in 1937 while he still held the office of Treasurer and at a meeting in the spring of 1946, 'being desirous of expressing its appreciation of the quarter century of generous and devoted service and outstanding leadership,' presented him with an engrossed testimonial signed by each member.

"On retiring from the presidency in January, 1947, he was unanimously given the title of Honorary President for life."³⁰ Mr. Zabriskie died at Ormond Beach, Florida, January 2, 1954.

THESE EIGHT YEARS were among the most momentous in our history, for they brought us the horrors of World War II, the coming of the Atomic Age, and the United Nations. Franklin D. Roosevelt was our President until his death on April 12, 1945, when Harry S. Truman tried to fill his shoes. In the first years of the war the German juggernaut overran Belgium and France and the epic Battle of Britain barely saved what was left of the allied army while the Soviets easily swallowed little Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. Then, in 1941, F.D.R. and Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter and, on December 7th, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and we were in the war. In 1942 General Eisenhower was put in command of American forces in Europe and later of the allied armies in Europe. The tide of battle turned when we invaded Italy in the summer of 1943 and forced that country to surrender. The following summer the allies landed in Normandy and advanced

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

travelling across France to Germany and, the following spring, forced the unconditional surrender of Germany and the end of the European War. But the Japanese fought on until August when the superiority of American naval, air, and ground forces and the atom bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki forced the surrender of the Japanese. By the middle of 1946 the Philippines were once more independent and in the fall the United Nations was installed at Flushing Meadows. In 1947 the Reds loomed large, the Cold War began, and Germany was temporarily partitioned among the victors.

In the meantime, in 1943, the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed and immigrants from that nation were put on a quota with the other nations. After the war there were many strikes here at home, wages and the cost of living skyrocketed, the Marshall Plan was put in operation to help our friends across the water and to check the Red threat. The Taft-Hartley Law controlled the labor situation to some extent in 1947, and sugar rationing, the last wartime control, was off. Two years earlier William O'Dwyer succeeded the efficient and popular "Little Flower" La Guardia as Mayor here in New York; in 1947 we rode on our last streetcar and, at holiday time, we had the worst snowfall since the Great Blizzard of 1888.

The coming of war affected every American individual and institution. Here at the Society attendance fell off markedly, our ablest young men joined the colors or went to work in defense plants, and our routine activities were sadly disrupted. But we continued as best we could, realizing that now, more than ever, we needed to keep alive our American traditions and preserve a record of our history so that it might serve as a guide and inspiration to our people. But the care of our precious possessions, the record of our national achievements, caused us not a little concern. As early as June 18, 1940, Messrs. Beekman, Banks, and Wall were appointed a special committee "to do whatever may be necessary to safeguard the collections of the Society in an emergency."

Soon after Pearl Harbor, we removed our paintings from the top-floor galleries and, having bought a truck, moved our most precious books, manuscripts, and works of art to a safe place in the country and others were put in our vault in the basement. As a protection against the possibility of incendiary bombs, the skylights over our galleries and library were covered with corrugated sheet iron, the expensive inner diffusing glass of the skylights was removed, and six inches of sand spread over the gallery floors. Barrels of sand were placed on the roof; fire-fighting apparatus was distributed throughout the building and the staff trained in its use. As a protection against the possibility of sabotage, the building was closed at four each day and the guards were armed for the first time, a precaution which has been continued.

In the meantime some of our ablest young men joined the colors; our Museum Curator and Supervisor of Public Relations became officers in the Navy and Army and our photographer and museum repairman became non-coms. On their departure we gave each of our staff a month's pay and all members of the Society in the services had their dues suspended until their return. In 1943, due to a shortage of guards because of the war, the museum was closed mornings, except Saturdays.

The Society invested heavily in war bonds and the Information Desk sold Defense Savings Stamps. On June 16th, 1942, the Board decided to invite the American Red Cross to establish a work unit in our building and on October fifth the Red Cross flag was raised over our door by Mrs. William W. Green who was placed in charge of The New-York Historical Society unit with Mrs. Frederick B. Adams, Sr., mother of our future Board member, Frederick B. Adams, Jr., as her successor. This unit started with about one hundred volunteers and was later increased to over two hundred members who were housed in the two front galleries on the first floor. They were soon busily engaged in making 10,000 or more surgical dressings per day. When, by the spring of 1943, the unit had made its millionth



THE SOCIETY'S RED CROSS UNIT, 1942

...essing, the Society had a reception for the workers. That year they put in 32,373 days' work. When the unit closed in December 1944, they had made four million surgical dressings. We were proud to have had this patriotic and practical war work within our walls.

With the threat of bombing over by October of 1943, the war-time precautions were dropped, the building was cleaned up, the Reading Room was again in use, and the Society's treasures were brought back from out-of-town storage. Early in 1944 the society erected five large outdoor signs in various strategic parts of the city for the display of Fourth War Loan Drive posters and by November of the following year our ablest young men had returned from the service and had resumed their old jobs which their associates had kept going as best they could in their absence.

With the election of President Zabriskie on April 18, 1939, to take the place of Mr. Weekes, who had resigned as soon as the building was completed and opened, interesting things began to happen. That month the Society's lovely garden was completed

with its trees and hedges, its flower-bordered walks and, a little later, its pool with the bronze Diana by Mrs. Archer M. Huntington, and the President decided to revive the Society's ancient custom of having an annual Strawberry Festival in June. So, on June 8th, we held the party with many guests and good entertainment, as you will find by consulting our final chapter.

Then Mr. Gallatin, one of the Board members, suggested that we should have an official flag. One was straightway designed with our seal in white on a deep blue background and it has flown ever since at the front of our building, together with the flag of our country. Visitors flocked to the new exhibits in the enlarged building—7,000 of them the first two weeks—and were further delighted with the weekly organ concerts in the auditorium which were amplified to the galleries as background music for our visitors.

Our President always liked a party so, on September 4, 1939 the 330th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River what could have been more fitting than to invite the Society and other friends for a cruise on its sparkling waters? So he chartered the *Alexander Hamilton* of the Hudson River Day Line and took 400 guests for a cruise around most of Manhattan Island and up the river to Nyack and return. A historical lecture was given over the loud speaker, telling of the historic spots along the route a delicious luncheon was served, Chrystal Waters (well named) sang some songs, and an orchestra played from time to time during the day. The weather was fine and the cruise was a great success, still remembered by those fortunate enough to have been invited.

Then, on December 6th, the President remembered another ancient tradition of the Society and revived the celebration of St. Nicholas Day which is also described in our final chapter.

The Society took part in many historical events, meetings and conferences outside of our own walls. Some time earlier we had joined with the Sons of the Revolution in erecting a Liberty Pole at City Hall Park on the site of the original pole of Revolu-

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

glorious days but it had blown down in a storm and so, in the summer of 1940, the two societies put up a new one, paid for as another had been, by Mr. Zabriskie. We also put a bronze tablet on the previously unmarked obelisk in Central Park, which seemed appropriate since we were the owners of one of the great Egyptian collections of the country.

We have always been distressed at the destruction of important historical buildings and the obliteration of historic sites within the city but, when the Park Department planned to destroy the Aquarium, we were really concerned, for it was one of less than a dozen important historical buildings of the early period still standing on Manhattan Island. Having been built as Fort Clinton as a defense of the harbor in the War of 1812, the water was the scene of the reception for Lafayette in 1824 and it later became known as Castle Garden, the famous concert hall where Jenny Lind and many other distinguished artists sang; even for many years it was used by the government as an emigrant station through which tens of thousands of the ancestors of our citizens came to the freedom and hope of a new life in their new country; and after that it was turned over to the city and was known to several more generations as The Aquarium, the city's chief show place with its millions of visitors every year.

Now, in 1941, the Society decided to join with other patriotic and civic bodies, headed by our member Mr. George McAneny, in trying to save this historic monument from destruction. The fight went on for another five years, principally, so far as we were concerned, through the vigorous activities of the President and the Director and the latter's successor, until the victory was finally won in 1946 and the old fort was turned back to the government to be restored by the National Park Service to its original condition as a national monument of distinction.

There was a little stir in local library and museum circles when, early in 1941, Mr. Robert Moses, the capable Park Commissioner, made a report to the Mayor in which he made a critical and, in some ways, ill-informed, attack on some of the city's

institutions. This report found its way into the local newspapers and the *Times*³⁷ quoted Mr. Moses as saying that these museums and libraries "must let down the bars for the great masses of the people [*great masses of the people were using them all constantly*], should eliminate exhibit duplications and end the practice of having self-perpetuating boards." As an example of what he had in mind "He criticizes the duplication of Egyptology in the American, Metropolitan and Brooklyn Museums and the New York Historical Society, and suggests that there isn't that much interest in Egyptology in any community."

Most of the institutions, somewhat aghast at the unfairness of the attack, did not reply immediately to Mr. Moses' tirade. But not the Historical Society! The following day the *Times*, quoting the indignant Mr. Wall, had this to say:

MOSES FEELS STING OF 'DEAD' MUSEUM

HISTORICAL SOCIETY RISES TO SMITE HIM FOR CALLING IT
MUSTIEST CITY EXHIBIT

The New York Historical Society registered yesterday the most vigorous protest of all the city's museums and kindred institutions criticized by Park Commissioner Robert Moses as too 'musty,' 'sacred' and in need of revivification.

In his report to Mayor La Guardia, released on Sunday, Mr. Moses singled out the New York Historical Society as the one institution that was 'dead.' In its reply to the Park Commissioner the society disclosed a great deal more animation than some of the other institutions belabored by Mr. Moses

"Mr. Moses's remarks about the New York Historical Society, if quoted correctly in the papers," said Alexander Wall, secretary of the society, "reveal that he knows nothing about the society, which, while it is open free to the public, is not operated with public money.

"His statement that the society had Egyptian objects [which were] duplicated by the Metropolitan and Brooklyn Museums indicates that it is a long time since Mr. Moses or anyone else representing him was here, because this collection was transferred to the Brooklyn Museum in 1937.

"In addition to its museum activities this society is a research institution in American history with a library of books, maps and manuscripts

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

which the Park Department is continually sending its research workers because its own records are insufficient to determine the facts.

It serves the students and scholars the country over, and school children in large numbers visit its classes each day, while the public is provided with every opportunity for education and the enjoyment of the collection. From 5,000 to 10,000 people visit here each month. Surely this doesn't indicate being *dead*."

Mr. Wall pointed out that the New York Historical Society was a private institution, privately endowed and that it received no support from the city treasury. He also emphasized that the society has never charged an admission fee.³⁸

In the same article, Mr. Beverley Robinson, President of the Museum of the City of New York, was quoted regarding museum duplication:

Concerning Mr. Moses' criticism that there was duplication in the exhibits of the Museum of the City of New York and the New York Historical Society, Mr. Robinson said that he had observed duplication when he toured the great museums of London, and that he had never found one exhibit less interesting because of a similar exhibit in another museum.

Mr. Moses has mellowed with the years. He is now more friendly, for, having paid us a visit at last, he knows firsthand what we are doing for the enjoyment and education of the public; and we can only applaud his fine cooperation with the Staten Island Historical Society in their attempt to make a little Willemansburg of charming and historically important old Richmond Town. He must have learned that history means a great deal to the average citizen as well as to the professional historian and that the historical centers in his city should be encouraged for the enjoyment of "the masses of the people," both those who live here and those who come to visit us every year by the hundreds of thousands.

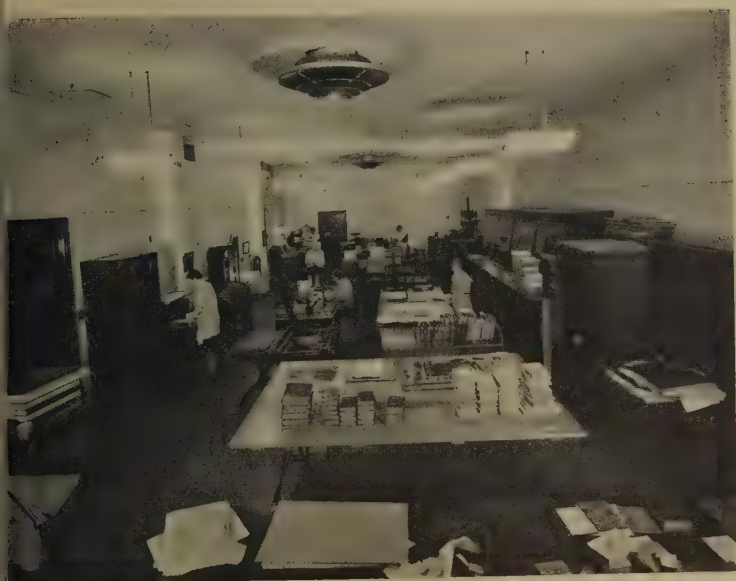
In 1941 our President urged the desirability of the Society's buying the summer home of our benefactors, the Thompson family, at East Hampton, Long Island, as a memorial to the family and as a summer museum. This suggestion was carried out and early the next spring the house was ours. It was opened



ALEXANDER J. WALL, DIRECTOR, AND MISS DOROTHY C. BARCK, LIBRARIAN
At the Thompson Homestead Memorial dedication, July 25, 1942

as the East Hampton Thompson Homestead Memorial on July 25, 1942, with addresses by our President and the Mayor of the town and with an exhibit of costumes, toys, and household utensils brought from the main building. New exhibits of military and American Indian materials were installed from time to time but, though it was kept open each summer for several years, it was off the beaten path and our Board finally decided that it was not of sufficient benefit to the public to warrant the continued expense and so the house was closed at the end of the 1946 summer season and sold the following autumn. On December 6, 1943, we secured the house at 15 West 76th Street, adjoining our garden on the west, as a place for surplus museum storage and as additional room for a future wing to our main building.

The wartime lessening in the use of the library and museum gave the staff a welcome opportunity to improve the condition of the collections in many ways. Nearly 400 new members came



THE BINDERY IN THE SOCIETY'S PRESENT BUILDING
Installed through the generosity of President Zabriskie

and during these years, the Society's lectures were continued and many interesting new exhibits were prepared. The *Quarterly* and other publications appeared with gratifying regularity; there was much reorganizing to be done. Both the professional and building staffs were considerably enlarged (except for the actual war years when so many were in the service), a new editor was hired, making it possible for the Librarian to devote all of her time to the library, a permanent painting restorer was employed, and a manuscript curator was added. Satisfactory progress was made in the cataloguing of the library collections and the galleries were improved with better lighting, the use of colorful backgrounds, and modern exhibition techniques, and many treasures came out of hiding for the delight of the visitor.

In order to work in closer cooperation with the faculties and graduate students of our universities, a seminar course on the "Resources and Methods of an American Historical Society"

was planned between the graduate history faculty of Columbia University and the Society; our Director, with the title of Associate in History, was designated to conduct the course in our building with the cooperation of the heads of the library, museum, editorial, educational, and public relations departments. This course, which began in 1942, has proved very popular with the graduate students of the history and education departments and the library school and has been continued to the present.

In 1940 we received a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation with which we were able to employ the eminent authority on early American painting, Mr. William Sawitzky, to give two series of fifteen lectures, in cooperation with the New York University Art Department, and to plan a series of monographs on early American artists by Mr. Sawitzky. One of these, on Matthew Pratt, was published but the author's failing health and untimely death ended the project, though it is hoped that Mrs. Sawitzky, who has worked on the undertaking ever since, will eventually be able to finish the rest of the series.

Another valuable publication issued under the Society's auspices was *The Life of Emma Thursby, 1845-1931*, by Richard M. Gipson, published in 1940 and based on our manuscripts and other records of this famous concert soprano. At a special meeting in our auditorium to celebrate the completion of the volume, there was an address on Miss Thursby's life by Walter Damrosch and a concert of her most popular selections sung in costume by Miss Jean Dickenson of the Metropolitan Opera Company. The entertainment was followed by a reception for Miss Thursby's sister and the performers. There was also a special Emma Thursby exhibition in one of the galleries, including her distinguished full-length portrait by G. P. A. Healy.

In order to improve our work with the school children of the city, as well as for use with our regular lecture series, we secured an up-to-date lantern-slide machine and a sixteen millimeter sound projector for motion pictures. These are in constant use during the school year, particularly in connection with the demonstration-lecture-motion picture programs for schools in-

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

augured by Alexander J. Wall, Jr., and continued by his successors.

A high school project in which we have been greatly interested ever since the building reopened is the series of lectures and gallery tours given partly in our building and by our staff for the benefit of the School Art League, a group organized to encourage talented young artists by the supplying of study facilities and by the awarding of prizes and scholarships. This group held its annual meeting for the awarding of prizes in our auditorium in June 1939, with a welcome from our Director and addresses by distinguished educators and an exhibit of the work of the young artists in the adjoining foyer. This pleasant ceremony has been an annual event ever since.

A most interesting traveling exhibit, "When Old New York was Young," prepared by our education and museum departments for use in the city's high schools, was put in circulation in 1946, stopping a month in each school. This was followed by another show, carrying the history down to a later period, called "New York from Meadow to Metropolis," and by still another showing the development of lighting devices from the rush light to the incandescent lamp. These exhibits include pictures, maps, books, broadsides, newspapers, weapons, costumes, and other three-dimensional objects and admirably illustrate the programs of the social studies, art, and English departments of the high schools where they are greatly appreciated by students and teachers alike.

For more mature artists, both amateur and professional, we opened our galleries for a display of the 300 paintings of the annual exhibition of the Allied Artists of America of which our Recording Secretary, Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A., was President. These varied and colorful shows continued in our building from 1942 to 1946 and brought us great crowds of thousands of visitors who had never before found their way here.

Another very successful exhibit promoted by Mr. Lockman, then President of the National Association of Portrait Painters, was their "Portraits of Americans by Americans" which brought



over 12,500 visitors to our galleries in 1945. Our own most popular special exhibit of this period was the showing in 1946 of a large selection from our collection of the nearly 500 original watercolors of Audubon's "Birds of America" which attracted 57,000 visitors in eight months. After this exhibit was closed, a selection of some 35 of these fascinating watercolors was given a small permanent gallery of its own.

One great collection was added to each of our departments in these eight years. On June 1, 1944, the Society opened an exhibition, which is still on view, selected from the remarkably interesting and important collection of 329 items having to do with the career of Captain James Lawrence who won fame in victory by the capture of the *Peacock* by the *Hornet* and in defeat with his dying admonition: "Don't give up the ship" when,



On June 1, 1813, his frigate, the *Chesapeake*, was captured by the British blockade runner *Shannon*. The Lawrence Collection consisted of 65 manuscripts, including the Captain's three commissions; 44 prints and paintings; 182 printed items and a large collection of personal memorabilia as well as a wonderfully complete and accurate scale model of the *Chesapeake*, made in part from one of the timbers of the original ship. This unsurpassed Lawrence collection was assembled by Dr. Eugene H. Pool, a great-great-nephew of the famous Captain, who added to it from time to time after the original presentation. The collection fits perfectly into our very fine library and museum of material relating to the history of the American Navy.³⁰

The museum was given many choice antiques collected with great discrimination by Mrs. J. Insley Blair, including 109 pieces

of blue Staffordshireware decorated with American views, given in memory of her husband; 75 Sandwich-glass cup plates; 37 historical chintzes; three chairs made by the famous English cabinetmaker, Thomas Chippendale, for Samuel Bayard, and Mrs. Bayard's Hepplewhite sewing table; three Sheraton and four Empire chairs; a Hepplewhite chest of drawers and a dressing table with mirror. To this magnificent gift she continued to add others and finally bequeathed to us some of the finest similar pieces in her collection, to which her daughters generously added others.

The art gallery received one of its most important collections when the New York Public Library, in 1944, placed in our care, on permanent loan (since they could not legally give it), the Robert L. Stuart collection of 243 nineteenth-century European, English, and American paintings and a Brussels tapestry of about 1710 by I. De Vos. The 47 artists who were natives or residents of America, most of whose canvasses were bought direct from the artists, include such well-known names as Bellows, Bierstadt, Boughton (*Pilgrims Going to Church*), Cafferty, Casilear, Church, Cole, Cropsey, Durand, Durrie (*Returning to the Farm, Farm Yard, Winter*), Edmonds, Gifford, Glass, Guy, Heade, Huntington, Inman, Inness, Eastman Johnson (*Old Kentucky Home*), Kensett, Leutze, William Sidney Mount (*Coming to the Point*, a sequel to *Bargaining for a Horse* [which we also have in another collection]), Rossiter, Sonntag, Tait, Weir, and Whittredge. The European artists include Corot, Detaille, Troyon, Gérôme, Dupré, Bonheur, and Jacob van Ruysdael (c. 1625-1682). This collection is not only interesting for its fine showing of modern American landscape and genre artists but also, like the Bryan and Durr collections, because it illustrates the collecting taste of another of our early American merchant collectors, at a time when they were still on their own and before they had a Duveen to tell them what to buy—and how much to pay for it.

A great deal of important material came to us, largely by the

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

gift of our generous friends, during these war years. The more important large collections of manuscripts included the Alexander McDougall Revolutionary War papers, numbering 4,200 items, and with them the 4,000 Hawkes family papers, 1830-1880; several large and important collections of James Duane papers and others from the family relating to New York City and Duanesburg; a large collection of Beekman papers from Dr. Fenwick Beekman and the Beekman Family Association, which we are about to publish. We also received from the same source the Philip Milledoler papers, including those which he kept as first President of Rutgers College; from other sources the Hamilton half of the correspondence regarding the Burr-Hamilton duel, preserved by Hamilton's second, Nathaniel Pendleton, together with other Pendleton papers (the other half of the duel correspondence is owned by the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown); letters from the Emperor Maximilian of Mexico to Chevalier Charles F. de Loosey, Mexican Consul General in New York, and the latter's official papers, 1843-1868, the gift of his descendant, Henry O. Havemeyer, Esquire; eighteenth-century papers of the DePeyster and Van Cortlandt families and of Elias Boudinot and Robert G. Livingston; and 7,000 New York State legal papers, 1790-1890.

Of a later period, there were collections of the papers of John Pintard and Frederic DePeyster, founders of the Society; a set of autographs of the Presidents of the United States; the President Chester A. Arthur papers, 1830-1886; the Emma Thursby collection of 3,000 pieces; 500 manuscripts relating to the town of Harlem, New York, from 1662 on, five of them signed by Peter Stuyvesant; letters and papers of Stephen and Madame Jumel (to which we later added a much larger collection); the papers of Governor William Sulzer, together with many books from his library; the account books of William Brewster, the carriage-maker; the 800 War of 1812 manuscripts of Major J. M. O'Connor; and the letters to and from the Long Island artist, William Sidney Mount.

Of individual items we cannot forego the pleasure of mentioning a precious volume of some 200 poems, mostly in Dutch, by Dominic Henricus Selyns, first minister in Brooklyn (1660), the second poet of New Netherland, those relating to this country having been translated by Henry C. Murphy in his *Anthology of New Netherland*. There is also the very interesting correspondence of Mrs. Mary Alexander, drygoods merchant of New York, including swatches of the materials purchased, 1730; two letters of Benjamin Franklin to his cousin Samuel Franklin, 1767 and 1771; the American travel journal of Joshua Brookes, 1798-1803, which we expect to publish; the notebook of New Jersey's first artist, John Watson, 1701-1726; several Revolutionary War orderly books; Aaron Burr's receipt book, 1792-1794; Mayor William Paulding's address of welcome to Lafayette on his arrival in the city in 1824; three full autograph letters of Abraham Lincoln to General George Gordon Meade and one from General Robert E. Lee to Meade; the diary of a former slave in the employ of the Verplanck family at Fishkill, 1839-1864; and the first full-sized facsimile engraving made of the Declaration of Independence.

Since printed materials arrive in an endless stream of tens of thousands of pieces every year, it is a bit difficult to select the outstanding items. One unusual collection of great distinction in its field was the more than 200 volumes on astrolabes, including two volumes of incunabula, which accompanied the gift of the Hoffman collection of astrolabes described with the other museum objects; of considerable importance was a fine lot of 250 books by or about Benjamin Franklin, including a few first editions of his writings and of books printed by him; the W. J. Quinn collection of tens of thousands of pieces relating to the hotels of New York; a large number of books from the library of Governor William Sulzer; nearly 150 volumes on early American architecture, a most welcome addition to our already large collection; over 2,700 volumes from the libraries of the Beekman and Milledoler families, many of them dating from

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

the eighteenth century, received through the generosity of Dr. Enrick Beekman; a complete set of the 37 first editions of the writings of Irving Bacheller, save for one book (which we have since secured) and one pamphlet, together with a few of his literary manuscripts; and the unsurpassed collection of thousands of pieces of material relating to Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale, assembled by our former trustee, Mr. Leonidas Westervelt, and presented by President Zabriskie, much of which is on exhibition.

Thousands of issues of rare newspapers were secured by gift and purchase, such as the only good file known of the Kingston, New York, *Ulster Plebian*, running roughly from 1815, when it was founded, to 1833. There were also three broadsides of outstanding historical importance and rarity: a proof copy with manuscript corrections of the Constitution of the New York Sons of Liberty, 1769, of which but two other copies are known; another giving the first account of the Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775; and the excessively rare and most important first edition of the Declaration of Independence.

Of separate books and tracts, we would mention the *Conference Between Massachusetts and New York* held in 1767 and printed in Boston, 1768; and the following rare New York City imprints: *A Little Olive Leaf*, printed by William Bradford, 1704, and the only known copy; *A Plat-Form of Church-Discipline*, also printed by Bradford, 1711; *The Laws, Ordinances and Charter of New York City*, printed by Hugh Gaine, 1774; and John André's satirical Revolutionary War poem *The Cow Chase*, 1789, DeWitt Clinton's copy. Of later books, we cannot omit mentioning a fine copy of Washington Irving's *Knickerbocker History of New York*, 1809, the first edition; and the first edition of *The Book of Mormon*, with the extremely rare four-page *Table of References* at the end, present in almost none of the copies of this fundamental Mormon book.

When we try to make a selection from the oil, watercolor, and pastel portraits of this period we are again embarrassed by a

multitude of riches. Early portraits include: Charles II, attributed rather hopefully to Sir Peter Lely; Garret Rapalje, by John Durand, *c.* 1770, and the outstanding group of Rapalje's four children painted at the same time by the same artist; portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Wynant Van Zandt, of the Pieter Vanderlyn type, *c.* 1720; Frederic DePeyster (The Marquis) (1731-1773), by N. du Pont, 1765; Judge Henry Brockholst Livingston, by John Vanderlyn; a self-portrait of Charles Willson Peale with a mastodon bone, 1824; portraits of Colonel Frederic Eichelberger and his wife, by Jacob Eichholtz; one of James Rivington, the Tory printer, by Francis Cotes, 1756; Major and Mrs. Leonard Bleecker, pastels by James Sharples; Mrs. James Gracie, by John Trumbull; Commodore Isaac Chauncey, by Stuart; Robert Fulton, attributed by the donor to Benjamin West, but a magnificent portrait, whoever painted it; William Bayard, after Stuart; John Hancock and Samuel Adams, after Copley; Jacob Lorillard (1774-1838, of the famous tobacco family whose snuff mill in Bronx Park is now a museum); and Simon Bolivar.

Harold E. Dickson's *John Wesley Jarvis*, which we published in 1949, credits us with two dozen of his paintings, which is twice the number of our nearest rival. His portraits of DeWitt Clinton, Governor Thomas Ellison, and Benjamin Bailey, as well as his own portrait by Bass Otis, 1808, were received between 1939 and 1946, as well as our first example of the work of his son, Charles Wesley Jarvis, a portrait of John Brownson, painted about 1850. We were also given an interesting large (9 by 15 feet) portrait group of 31 famous New York merchants, painted by Thomas Prichard Rossiter in 1857; and portraits by the following distinguished artists: Daniel Huntington's Thomas Cole, the artist, his James B. Stokes and General John A. Logan; William Sidney Mount's Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hood; Samuel F. B. Morse's General and Mrs. Jacob Morton and his General Stephen Van Rensselaer seated in his library; and Samuel L. Waldo's Joshua Jones.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

Our gallery of the Presidents of the United States was enriched by the addition of the following portraits: Fillmore, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, McKinley (by See), Theodore Roosevelt, Taft (by Halmi), Wilson, Harding, Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt (by Lockman), and Truman (by Kaufman), thus completing our gallery of the Presidents down to President Eisenhower. Other notable Americans added to our portrait gallery include Levi P. Morton; Governor Benjamin Pierce and daughter, father and sister of President Franklin Pierce; Governor Reuben E. Fenton; Henry Ebot Lodge; Elbert Henry Gary; Samuel Gompers, by Leopold Seyffert; Governor Alfred E. Smith; Secretary Josephus Daniels, by Lockman; Carl Schurz, by Ferraris; Washington Irving, by J. H. Shegogue, 1836; David Livingstone; and Robert C. Ingersoll with two grandchildren.

Several portraits of famous actors and singers were received, including: Joseph Jefferson; two of Richard Mansfield and one of Beatrice Cameron, his wife; Laura Keane; Edwin Forrest; Emma Thursby by Healy; Emma Calvé; and Sir Henry Irving. The most delightful and important of the dozens of miniatures received were the beautifully executed youthful portraits of President and Mrs. James Madison, but there were others worth mentioning: General Lewis J. Costigan (Revolutionary soldier and spy), General Samuel B. Webb (Revolutionary soldier), Governor Joseph Bloomfield of New Jersey, John Rivington (son of James, the printer), Lewis Morris Ashfield (1724-1769), John Lincklaen of the Holland Land Company, his father and sister, and several others from the Bleecker and Duyckinck families. A few others by famous artists are worth mentioning: James Scobie by Malbone, Mrs. Remsen by James Peale, Mrs. Ann Quinlan by Sully, Stephen Paine by Thomas Birch, Captain John Gordon by Henry Benbridge, Dr. Charles Chapin by Chester Harding, General and Mrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer by Charles Fraser, and Martha Harris Tufts by Sarah Goodridge.

A dozen wax portraits were received including those of Mrs. Nelly Madison (mother of President James Madison) and Samuel B. Webb by Reuben Moulthrop.

Of the many sculptures we will mention only a dozen. Here are the bronzes: *Diana*, by Mrs. Archer M. Huntington, which adorns the pool in our garden; *The Puritan*, statuette by Augustus St. Gaudens; Henry B. Hyde, statuette by J. Q. A. Ward; Volk's life mask and a cast of the right hand of Abraham Lincoln. There is also a marble bust of President Martin Van Buren by Hiram Powers and a marble bas-relief of Mrs. Lewis A. Stimson (Candace Wheeler), the mother of Henry L. Stimson, by Launt Thomson; a majolica bust of Giovanni da Verrazano, discoverer of New York Harbor; and plaster busts of George Washington by William Rush, of Thomas Jefferson by William Ordway Partridge, of Silas S. Packard, founder of Packard Business School, by J. Q. A. Ward; and a plaster bas-relief of the New York merchant, Joshua Brookes, by Salathiel Ellis.

Among paintings other than those in the Stuart Collection, we would like to mention two landscapes each by John W. Casilear and J. F. Cropsey; and nine watercolors by W. G. Wall for his *Hudson River Portfolio*, of which we now have fourteen also the *Hudson River from Tarrytown Heights*, by Robert Havell; the *Mill Pond at Sleepy Hollow*, by William R. Miller; *Mill Grove*, *Audubon's First American Home*, by Thomas Birch, and three marines by the same artist. Of historical and genre subjects there are: *The Landing of George Washington at the Foot of Wall Street in 1789*, by A. H. Rivey, from which the 1888 engraving was made; *John Brown's Blessing*, 1867, and *Witch Hill*, 1869, by Thomas S. Noble, as well as his portrait by John Ward Dunsmore and 30 historical paintings by the latter artist; *Capital and Labor*, by E. L. Henry; the race horse *Iola* by the famous early animal painter, Edward Troye (we own two other horse portraits by him); 12 charming watercolors of James Hazen Hyde's famous road coach "Liberty," by Max Klepper

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

and *The Departure of the Seventh Regiment for the Civil War*, by Thomas Nast.

Of course many views of New York City came to the collection but we will mention only a dozen of the oils and watercolors: *St. Paul's Chapel*, by Jacob Eichholtz, watercolor, 1806; *Immunity Society Celebrating the Fourth of July in 1812*, by William P. Chappel; *Skating Rink, Central Park*, by Hughson Lawley, watercolor, 1907; *West Forty-Sixth Street*, by A. Mario, 1868; *The Battery*, by Andrew Melrose, 1885; *The Brennan Farm House*, 84th Street and Bloomingdale Road; *The John Picsson House* and *Manhattan Contrasts* (the Glen Island Hotel, West Street), both by Everett Warner, about 1918; and three charming studies by Colin Campbell Cooper: *Municipal Building*, *Waldorf Astoria*, and *Water Front*.

Among the drawings received were two sketch books of New York State and other views by the Canadian artist, George Meriot; 43 drawings of old New York buildings by W. H. Wallace; a fine group of the rare World War I sketches of boardman Robinson and 32 made by Frederic Remington. Many are prints, mostly early views of New York, came in as gifts or from two important print sales held in 1941-1942 but the most notable additions were the collection of nearly 200 political cartoons, 1831-1874, the gift of Henry O. Havemeyer, Esquire, and the interesting and useful Harry T. Peters Collection of 10,000 woodcuts from the illustrated magazines of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Photographs came to us by the thousand, chief among them being the distinguished collection of *Portraits of Men* by Pirie MacDonald, 1900-1943, the negatives of which were destroyed on the photographer's death. In most cases they are the best portrait studies ever made of the great men of the nation during the period. We also received 1,000 photographs of the building of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1895-1938; 1,700 of the Navy in World War II; and nearly 600 of The Bronx and

Manhattan Island, 1890-1906. We also secured over 18,000 important photographic negatives, mostly of New York City views in the nineteen hundreds, but also including 3,500 very important photographs of important persons, places, and events in this period by Burr McIntosh; over 1,200 of lighthouses in the New York area, 1880-1927; and 2,000 negatives, lantern slides, and photographs by William L. Calver, the record of his archaeological excavations in the New York area and elsewhere.

Aside from the gifts of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, which gave so much distinction to our collection of early American household furnishings, the most important single gift to the museum was the group of astrolabes and portable sundials which had been assembled over the years by our late President, Samuel V. Hoffman. This collection of 31 astrolabes and 14 sundials is undoubtedly the largest assemblage of these fascinating scientific instruments in this country and, when taken with the 200 books on the subject which came with them, gives us the best available study collection on the subject. Mr. Hoffman left us in his will the sundials and a selection of the choicest astrolabes, including the wonderful astrolabe of Ahmed Ibn Mohamed of Isfahan, of about 1000 A.D., and—the most important of all—the astrolabe used by Champlain in his explorations of Canada and New York State. To these, Mr. Hoffman's son, Mr. Eugene A. Hoffman, later added the rest of the collection and all of the literature his father had assembled on the subject.⁴⁰

The museum's fine collection of early silver is constantly growing. We were particularly pleased when our Trustee, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V, having no son to inherit them, decided to give the Society the ancient silver seal of the Van Rensselaer family, 1586, and wedding ring of the first Patroon, 1626, both of which had been used by each succeeding head of the family down to himself, the fifteenth Patroon and thirteenth Lord of the Manor. We were also given by another member of the family, the silver snuff box of Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, 1742; the silver mug of Johannes Schuyler, son of the emigrant

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

restor of the family, which was made for him by Koenraet Eyck (1678-1753) of New York City. We were greatly delighted when we found the silver wine taster made by Henricus Boelen, also of New York, about 1690, among the effects of one of the old families where it had become blackened with use and with its ignominious use as an ash tray. Now beautifully polished, it has returned to its original proud condition. We picked up at the Haskell sale a beautiful covered silver sugar bowl by Ephraim Brasher, another New York silversmith of about 1796 and were greatly pleased when we were given a lovely pair of silver candlesticks which George Washington had given Julia Bayard, the bride of his nephew, Lawrence Washington. Undoubtedly the finest example of a seventeenth-century Dutch kas in this country is the treasured family heirloom given us by Dr. Fenwick Beekman. We also were happy to secure from another source the early medicine chest of Dr. Gerard Beekman (1653-1723); and the handsome mahogany four-post bed, 1740-1750, of Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the gift of Mrs. J. Insley Blair. Comparatively modern costumes and costume accessories are frequently offered to us but a beautiful early dress with a history, such as the wedding dress of Mrs. George Clinton, the wife of the first Governor of New York State, is particularly prized.

We always welcome additions to our notable collection of early weapons but we had never had a crossbow of the type used in the French and Indian Wars until Mr. Hoffman picked up one for us at one of the William Randolph Hearst sales. The pair of duelling pistols and sword of John Lincklaen, the agent of the Holland Land Company, are much admired; and the English musket, still in excellent condition, which was surrendered at Saratoga in 1777, is surely a treasure. In addition to these, we were given 36 early pistols and revolvers which had been enthusiastically assembled by another collector.

We frequently have Powers models in the building, gracefully



CORNER OF OUR DUTCH ROOM AS INSTALLED IN 1944
The 17th-century Dutch Kas (right) is a Beekman family heirloom
Gift of Dr. Fenwick Beekman, 1941

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

ed in an ancient setting before the appreciative eye of the era, but models of another sort are our stock in trade. Our model of the *Monitor*, the beginning of the modern navy, of greater historical significance and so has the twelve-foot model of the once famous *Puritan* side-wheeler of the Fall River Line. It is an easy transition from ship models to our-store Indians, since the latter were sculptured in wood by the ships' carvers who used to make the figureheads for the sailing ships of an earlier era. Our choicest wooden Indian is Chief Osceola of the Seminoles, modeled from the painting by Edwin of which we also have one of the rare prints. Appropriately enough, it was given us by President Zabriskie who, in his later years, was more than half a Floridan. Two other very fine wooden figures, carved by Ernest Plassmann about 1865, now ornament our carriage gallery. They would never stoop to advertise tobacco, however, for they used to stand at the door of the Brewster carriage factory which was appropriate since they presented a coachman and a groom and, when the head of the old firm retired, he put them in our care where they could guard the beautiful carriages he had made for the old families of New York. And now that we are down among the coaches, carriages and sleighs, we would like you to admire the mail coach *Lightning*, built for an American in Paris from an English model and proud to have the world's record for the fastest time ever made in such a vehicle. I am sure you will also admire the graceful basket phaeton given us by Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer and the pony cart presented by her husband, as well as the private hansom cab which was originally offered to us, horse, harness and hansom, all together. We took everything but the old white horse which brought this all-but-extinct vehicle to our door. You never can tell what a person will collect. One of our friends spent many years gathering the 26 early nineteenth-century apple parers which he finally gave us to show future generations how ingenious our ancestors really were when they went about the making of a useful gadget.



DIRECTOR ALEXANDER J. WALL (1884-1944)

By DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A.

Painted for the Society, 1934

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

On April 14, 1944, Alexander J. Wall, the devoted Director of the Society, though none too well, was at his desk as usual. The next day he died and his friends in the Society and his colleagues throughout the nation mourned, for he was one of the best of them all. But we will let President Zabriskie, the man with whom he worked so long and so well, give his just and kindly appraisal of the merits of the man who made our old Society an efficient and modern center for American historical research.

This Society has lost an able director, and there are tears of heartfelt sorrow. Alexander James Wall served The New-York Historical Society for forty-six years as Assistant Librarian, Librarian and Director.

He was born in New York City on October 25, 1884, received his early education in the public schools and joined the staff of the Society in 1908 at the age of fourteen. In 1921 he was appointed Librarian and Secretary of the Executive Committee—later the Board of Trustees; in 1937 his title was changed to Director as more fittingly describing his many duties and responsibilities. By pure love of learning and devotion to study he acquired information which was strongly impressed upon his mind; he possessed many of the talents of Herodotus, had a wonderful memory, and the prefaces of many historical works testify to the help he generously gave to many scholars and authors. While making no pretension to personal merit, he also had an excellent capacity for business.

Mr. Wall prepared and edited a *Catalogue of the Gallery of Art* of the Society, published in 1915, with a new arrangement of the paintings and with biographical sketches of the artists. He edited for many years the John Watts DePeyster Publication Fund Series and the volumes in the John Divine Jones Fund Series [listed in the Appendix]. In April 1917 he started the *Quarterly Bulletin* as a publication for historical monographs, source material, and notes. He continued as its editor until 1936, contributing to it more than thirty articles of permanent value, resulting from his careful researches.

When the Thompson estate made funds available and the Trustees decided upon enlarging the Society's building to its present proportions, Mr. Wall took an active part in drawing the plans and supervising the construction. He visited some fifty galleries abroad in 1937, studying lighting methods and effects in England, Holland, and France, and his observations resulted in bringing to the Society the lighting system now in use and conceded to be the best in the land. This he incorporated in an article, "In Search of Light,"¹ which has been widely read by museum architects with profit. In 1939 the Board of Trustees presented to Mr. Wall a silver bowl on which was inscribed "In appreciation of his skill,

knowledge, and unremitting effort in planning and carrying through the transition from the old building to the new."

Mr. Wall enjoyed a wide acquaintance among librarians and directors of other historical societies, and for many years met with them informally to discuss problems in which they were all concerned. His professional interest and desire to associate with other specialists in the several fields in which this Society's work lies, led him to join a number of like organizations, serving on different committees and lecturing frequently on historical subjects. In the spring of 1942 Mr. Wall gave a series of lectures under the auspices of Columbia University to graduate students and professional librarians, using the Society's facilities for practical demonstrations of its work in accessioning, cataloguing, binding, manuscript repair, and many other phases of an historical society's work and service; as special preparation to give that course, Mr. Wall made a tour of historical societies throughout the country, studying the methods used. [*This course is still being given by Mr. Wall's successor.*] His contributions to publications other than those of our Society included articles for *Valentine's Manual*, *The American Collector*, *The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association*, *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, and many others. A complete bibliography of Mr. Wall's writings appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*. He was always concerned about the preservation of historical records of all kinds, and in methods of their care. In 1922 he inserted advertisements in 16 newspapers, asking everyone not to destroy old documents but to send them to the Society, and several years later he wrote an article upon "Historical Records: Their Lack of Care and Restoration."

From 1921 until his death, Mr. Wall was the official examiner of all membership application papers of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, continuing the friendly relationship between the Society and the Sons, dating from the organization of the Sons in the Historical Society's rooms.

Mr. Wall married on November 26, 1906, Lillian B. Hashagen of New York, and their son Alexander J. Wall, Jr., was born in 1912. Junior joined the staff of the Society in July, 1935, after several years with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and is now [1944] a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Air Corps. [*Having followed worthily in his father's footsteps, he is now, 1954, the distinguished Director of the New Jersey Historical Society at Newark, has a lovely wife and a small son to carry on an honored name to a third generation.*]

It is a distinct privilege to say of Mr. Wall that his contribution to the welfare of this Society won him the affection and esteem of his fellow members. His life was enlivened with a variety of experiences and a vein of good humor. His companions in youth were those of later years, and his disposition was one of lively sociability and human: a kind friend and benevolent.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

As a speaker he was always clear and to the point, and those who have heard him speak on early New York history remember him as possessed of a discriminating mind and a comprehensive understanding. Mr. Wall closed his useful life association with the Society at the age of 59—held in the highest regard and a model for historians.⁴²

The present writer met Mr. Wall for the first time in this building in 1914 and is proud to say that we were close friends for thirty years. His colleagues in the historical field had the highest praise for his abilities and those who knew him well had a warm affection for him as well. We sat in adjoining seats for the last time at a Council meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America only a few days before his untimely death. His passing was keenly felt by all engaged in the preservation and use of American historical materials.

Mr. Wall died on April 15, 1944, and on June 20th the Board chose as his successor R. W. G. Vail, State Librarian of New York,⁴³ who began his work as the Society's Director on September first of that year. He had the satisfaction of working for three seasons with President Zabriskie who, at the end of his administration, could boast that the Society had recovered from the effects of the war with 86,000 visitors to the building, 4,400 readers in the library who had used 52,000 manuscripts, books, newspapers, maps and prints during the year. Then, at his final meeting as President, at the age of 78, he modestly spoke to his colleagues on the Board:

"With this report, having completed eight years, your President takes his leave. He considers his election was a privilege of service rather than a tribute to personal merit."

Mr. Zabriskie was elected Honorary President of the Society and had served so well and, whenever he was in the city, continued to attend the meetings of the Board, the Strawberry Festival, and the St. Nicholas Day party, to which he always sent a large and luscious orange for every guest. And then, at the good old age of 86, he came back to his Florida home after a pleasant drive, lay down and quietly breathed his last.



FENWICK BEEKMAN, M.D. (1882—)

Twenty-third President of the Society, 1947 to date

By DeWitt M. Lockman, 1949

Painted from life for the Society

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

FENWICK BEEKMAN, M.D. (1882-)

TWENTY-THIRD PRESIDENT (1947-)

On the retirement of Mr. Zabriskie, the eminent surgeon Dr. Fenwick Beekman was elected President of the Society. He was born in New York City, the son of William Bedlow and Katherine Morris (Parker) Beekman. He secured his education at the Saint Marks School, 1896-1901; at Columbia University, 1901-1903; and received his degree as Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1907. He married, first, Sabina Wood Struthers, October 12, 1912, and had three sons: Fenwick, Reverend Gerardus, and Dr. Robert Struthers Beekman, a practicing physician in New York City. He married, second, Vera Byerley, December 8, 1933. On the outbreak of World War I Dr. Beekman joined the Army Medical Corps, served with distinction in Europe and was one of the group of surgeons who brought to perfection the techniques of plastic surgery which saved so many of our soldiers from death and deformity. He was discharged with the rank of Major at the end of the war and with a citation for "meritorious service in the Battle of Cambrai."

Dr. Beekman has served as Consulting Surgeon of the Hospital for Special Surgery (the old Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled), of the Lincoln, Bellevue, and North County Community Hospital at Glen Cove, Long Island, as well as Consulting Pediatric Surgeon at the Fitkin Memorial Hospital at Neptune, New Jersey. He has taken his place as a leader in his profession, being a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Medical Association, a Treasurer of the New York County Medical Society, Assistant Treasurer of the New York State Medical Society, Secretary of the New York Academy of Medicine, a member of the New York Surgical Society, the Harvey Society of New York, the New England Association of Railway Surgeons, the American Association for Surgery of Trauma, the American Association of Oral and Plastic Surgery, a founding member of the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Beekman is the leading American collector and student of the eminent Scottish surgeon John Hunter and, if his health had permitted, he would have accepted the invitation of his British colleagues to address them this year on the career of John Hunter.

Dr. Beekman has many other interests than his profession. He is a Trustee of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, of the New York Society Library, and of Green-Wood Cemetery. He is the author of Office Surgery, 1932, Hospital for the Ruptured and Crippled: A Historical Sketch, 1939, and of many surgical and historical papers, some of the latter having appeared in our Quarterly. Dr. Beekman's chief hobby, aside from his interest in John Hunter, is the skillful binding and finishing of beautiful books, an art which he has learned under the instruction of the distinguished binder, Gerhard Gerlach. For Dr. Beekman's association with our Society we cannot do better than quote from

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

the appreciation written by his old friend, and predecessor in office, Mr. George A. Zabriskie, at the time of his election as our President:

"It is the custom for an outgoing President to welcome the new one, offer his congratulations, express his pleasure, and wish him a very successful administration. To do all this gives me genuine satisfaction, but there is much more: the election of Dr. Fenwick Beekman to the Presidency of this Society assures it of a forward-looking administration, with a well-equipped staff and the warm support of a Board of Trustees whose one thought is to instruct and render every service possible to a community interested in acquiring a knowledge of history.

"Our Annual Report shows that last year [1946] we had the largest over-all attendance and the largest single-day attendance in the Society's history; more books, maps, and prints used; more lectures offered to more groups; wider publicity; more intensive educational activity; bigger income; larger total funds: and much credit for all this belongs to Dr. Beekman. He became a life member of the Society in 1930, was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1935, became Second Vice-President in 1941, and First Vice-President in 1944, during all of which time he has served with distinction on many committees and in almost every branch of endeavor . . . [Under his leadership] we may confidently look forward to greater achievement and wider renown."⁴⁴ Dr. Beekman was elected a Patron of the Society on November 26, 1952, "in recognition of his devotion and outstanding services." He was given the Society's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in 1954. The Society owns an oil portrait of President Beekman by DeWitt M. Lockman, N. A.

THIS IS the Atomic Age—the age of the Cold War and of small but serious wars in far places; an age of social, political, economic, and artistic unrest and uncertainty. World War II was over, Germany had been occupied and the Air Lift had frustrated Russia's attempt to starve Berlin into submission; through the Marshall Plan the United States was doing much for the rehabilitation of the war-torn world. The States of Israel and Trans-Jordan and the Republic of Korea were recognized by the United States in 1949 and the twelve-nation North Atlantic Pact was signed.

Then the North Korean Communists invaded South Korea, the United Nations rallied to the latter's defense and American troops went into action in Korea on July 3, 1950. Later in the year the Chinese Communists joined the fight, with Russian training and equipment. With the South Koreans and the United

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

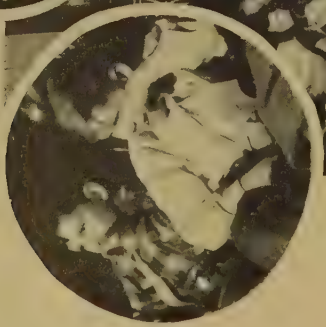
states troops doing most of the fighting, the war ended in an uneasy armistice in 1953. There had been 1,300,000 casualties for the South Koreans and 137,000 for the United States. It was a high price to pay but South Korea's independence was safe for the moment.

In the meantime Communist China grew strong, drove the Americans and other Westerners out of the country, defeated the Chinese Republican forces which retired to Formosa, conquered Tibet and invaded Southeast Asia. Our best friends, the English, floundered about with a Labor government until 1951, when they returned Prime Minister Churchill and the Conservatives to power; the following year King George VI died and Elizabeth II became a well-loved Queen.

Here at home our nation of 150,600,000 people had Truman as President until Dwight Eisenhower, former Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in Europe, and later President of Columbia University, was elected President of the United States in November 1952 "to clean up the diplomatic and domestic mess" he had inherited. Wartime subsidies and controls were gradually removed, subversives were prosecuted, Alger Hiss and the leading Red spies were jailed, the Rosenbergs executed, and the nauseating antics of the investigations in Washington disgusted tens of millions of television viewers and other good citizens.

When not attending the baseball games, lolling about the beaches or racing over the roads in their spare time, our people were staying home and enjoying the varied and generally mediocre fare of the television programs which, however, were crippling the movie industry in spite of the use of color and wide screens. But even with television to distract them, our people were reading huge quantities of literature, good and bad. The Bible sold as never before and so did such books as the Kinsey Report. Important writers of history, biography and literature were read as well as paper-backed reprints of the classics and tons of trash in similar bindings.

This is written in the eighth year of the administration of



THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

Dwight Beekman, M.D., twenty-third President of our ancient Society. In spite of the world's preoccupation with the threat of atomic war and the steadily mounting cost of our daily existence, great gifts of friendship and material things have been received and our service to the community and to the nation has continued to grow. Though we have looked longingly to far horizons and have seen a tempting mirage or two, we have kept to the trail and have made many new friends along the way. In the last of these years our attendance reached nearly 90,000 and it is a satisfaction to know that, within a twelvemonth, nearly 100,000 school children have been among our guests. A far cry indeed from the ancient day when an invitation from a member was required before crossing our doorstep and when a dozen visitors a day was a crowd. Now everyone is welcome and we often go out to meet the young people in our high schools where our travelling exhibits reach another 60,000 every year. Motion-picture programs for young and old and our Sunday afternoon concerts reach another 12,000 in addition to the other thousands who attend our members' lectures every year. Washington Irving, in 1809, may have had two or three scholarly companions when he came to use our library but he would be surprised to learn that, today, nearly 5,000 readers use our books and newspapers, our manuscripts, maps and prints every year; and he would be amazed to discover that nearly a thousand friends give us over 30,000 additions to our collections before each annual anniversary of our founding.

As in the past, it is considered a privilege to be a member of this Society. When General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower accepted membership on October 28, 1947, he wrote:

I am extremely pleased to learn that I have been elected an Honorary Member of The New-York Historical Society. Naturally, I am proud to accept the membership, and am truly appreciative of the distinction accorded me. Will you please convey my grateful thanks to your members?

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Not infrequently a foreign visitor of distinction finds it his pleasant official duty to pay us a visit. Honorable Paul van Zeeland, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, headed the delegation which gathered in our library on September 22, 1953, for the presentation of a historical Mechlin tapestry commemorating the arrival of the first Walloons and Flemings to settle in New Netherland. This handsome example of the art for which his country has been famous for centuries was, on that occasion, presented by Mr. van Zeeland to Mr. Lee Thompson Smith, President of the Committee for the Celebration of New York's Three Hundredth Anniversary, who accepted the gift for the city and, in turn, presented it to President Beekman for the Society. The tapestry had been brought to America originally for exhibition in the Hall of Honor in the Belgian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1939 and, after its unveiling, was given a permanent place on the north wall of our library.¹⁵

Sir Francis Evans, British Consul General at New York, also paid us a visit when he came to transmit, in the name of the British Admiralty, the four copper plates of the important early maps of our region which had been used in *The Atlantic Neptune*, an official atlas issued for the use of the British Navy in 1774-1781. Tea, at which Mrs. Beekman poured, was served to the guests after the presentation which several of our officers and trustees and their wives attended.

"On a day in May, 1942, Sergeant Edward Tempest of the constabulary force of Yorkshire, England, while observing the ruins of the historic Guildhall of York—destroyed by Nazi air attacks—noticed that there remained intact a portion of stained glass containing the coat of arms of the Washington family and a bronze tablet erected by the City of New York and bearing an expression of friendship and good will from the citizens of the New World city. It occurred to him that the ancient city of York might spare one relic from the ruins of this honored edifice for its godchild—New York City!

"From this thought there emerged a gavel fashioned from oak



PRESENTATION OF TAPESTRY OF BELGIANS COMING TO MANHATTAN, 1624

His Excellency, Paul van Zeeland, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Mr. Lee Thompson Smith, Chairman, New York City's 300th Anniversary
 Committee

Dr. Fenwick Beekman, President, The New-York Historical Society
 Hon. Jacques de Thier, Belgian Consul General in New York City

of the Guildhall timbers, which Mr. Tempest was delegated by the Lord Mayor of York to carry to this city for presentation to the citizens of New York for safekeeping in The New-York Historical Society. On April 11, 1947, Mr. Tempest was received at City Hall by Deputy Mayor John J. Bennett. After delivering the gavel, which Mr. Bennett entrusted to Dr. Fenwick Beekman, President of the Society, Mr. Tempest was conducted to the Society's building where a reception was held in his honor." On hand to greet him were Dr. and Mrs. Beekman, Dr. LeRoy E. Kimball, First Vice-President of the Society, and Mrs. Kimball and several of the other officers and trustees and their wives, as well as a half dozen of Mr. Tempest's personal friends. The casket containing the gavel encloses an illuminated parchment which bears this inscription: "This Gavel and Casket, fashioned from ancient Guildhall Oak, a symbol of affectionate regard between the Old World and the New, is the gift of Alderman Frank Gaines, Lord Mayor, and the Citizens of York, England to The New-York Historical Society. April 11th 1946."⁴⁰ The gavel is always used at the deliberations of the Society.

On March 24, 1954, we had at our monthly Board meeting Monsieur François Boucher, former Conservator of the Musée Carnavalet of Paris, the distinguished guest of Mr. Forsyth Wickes who spoke of their years of friendship, both as comrades in World War I and in their common interest in the collecting of French art.

The Society is frequently represented by our officers on public occasions beyond our walls. On the occasion of the official transfer of our Egyptian collection to the Brooklyn Museum a dinner was given by the Museum on November 17, 1948, at which President Beekman made the opening address at the end of which he presented, in the name of the Society, the oil portrait, by Thomas Hicks, of Dr. Henry Abbott, founder of the collection. The Museum's appreciation of the Egyptian collection and gratitude for the gift of the portrait of its founder was ex-

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

essed in an address by Mr. Sidney W. Davidson, Chairman of the Board, who was followed by Mr. John D. Cooney, the Museum's Egyptologist who, in extolling the merits of the Abbott collection, said that their Egyptian collection now ranks third in the country, being surpassed only by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Six other officials of our Society were present at the dinner, as well as most of the officers and trustees of the Brooklyn Museum. Many of the guests were accompanied by their wives. The following year the Museum secured full title to our collection of Pre-Columbian Spanish-American Indian artifacts and our small but choice collection of weapons and implements of the Indians of the Plains which they had had for several years on loan.

One very important piece from the Egyptian collection, the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus, the oldest surgical manuscript in the world, was presented jointly by our Society and the Brooklyn Museum to the library of the New York Academy of Medicine at a dinner given by the latter organization on December 2, 1948. Again President Beekman and Mr. Davidson made the principal addresses and the papyrus was accepted by the President of the Academy where it will always remain their choicest treasure. The presentation ceremony is shown on the following page.

When the Society wished to present its Gold Medal for Achievement in History to Mr. Harry T. Peters because of his outstanding historical works on early American lithography, it was found that Mr. Peters was not well enough to attend a public function in his honor so, on December 8, 1947, President Beekman and Director Vail, both old friends of Mr. Peters, went to his home where, with a few members of his family present, Dr. Beekman presented the medal and Mr. Peters voiced his deep appreciation of the honor.⁴⁷

On May 14, 1951, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Albert Gallatin's becoming Secretary of the Treasury, the Society, through President Beekman, laid a wreath on Gallatin's



PRESENTING THE EDWIN SMITH PAPYRUS TO THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Dr. Fenwick Beekman, Mr. Charles Nagel, Jr., Dr. George Baehr
Portrait of Edwin Smith by Francesco Anelli, 1847, in background

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

ave in Trinity Church Yard. There were prayers by Reverend Frederic S. Fleming, D.D., Rector of Trinity Church, brief addresses by Dr. Beekman, Mr. Wayne Andrews, Curator of Manuscripts of the Society and our authority on the life of Gallatin, and by Honorable Rudolph Shärer, Vice-Consul of Switzerland, Gallatin's birthplace. The Gallatin family was represented by Mr. and Mrs. A. FitzRoy Anderson and Mr. Albert E. Gallatin, and Mr. Vail, the Society's Director, was also one of the group. Six days earlier there was a lecture at the Society by Dr. Raymond J. Walters in connection with a preview of the special exhibition: *Gentleman from Geneva—Albert Gallatin, Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury*,⁴⁸ a remarkable showing of Gallatin manuscripts, books, portraits, furnishings and memorabilia.

President Beekman represented the Society at the inauguration of Dr. Lewis W. Jones as President of Rutgers University on May 28, 1952, and the Director performed a like service as one of the academic procession at the sesquicentennial of the United States Military Academy at West Point that spring. To further celebrate the event, the Society had a special West Point exhibition and lecture on March 4th which was attended by Major General Frederick A. Irving, Superintendent of the Academy; Major General Orlando Ward, Chief of Military History of the Army (the speaker); Lieutenant General Willis D. Crittenger, Commanding General, First Army; and other officers.

In these years the Society's exhibition galleries were reinstalled and modernized and many new cases added so that we could show twice the material previously on exhibition. Among the more interesting exhibits of the period were: *Frederic Remington, Artist of the Old West*, the largest exhibit of the artist's paintings, sculptures and prints ever held, arranged, with an accompanying lecture, by Harold McCracken, November 1, 1947; the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Trinity Church which opened with a preview for 500 invited guests on May 6, 1947;⁴⁹ *Gold Fever*, celebrating the centennial

of the discovery of gold in California, on October 19, 1948;⁶¹ the fiftieth anniversary of Greater New York on October seventh of that year;⁶¹ the first important Northern showing of material on the Confederate States of America, with a meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy on April 28, 1949; *Survivors of a Century* which celebrated the New York newspapers at least a hundred years old, on September 18, 1951, with a special program shortly after at which Major General Julius Ochs Adler, General Manager of *The New York Times*, and Mr. James Wechsler, Editor of the *New York Post* were the speakers; the *Hats in the Ring* political-campaign show which featured the actual headgear of our Presidents, which opened November 17, 1952; the extremely popular *Circus Time* which opened on April 1, 1953, with the celebrated Ringling clown, Emmett Kelly, present in costume and with the Director's booklet on the history of the early circus: *This Way to the Big Top!* published for the occasion; and the meeting and preview of an exhibit on January 6, 1954, to commemorate the bicentennial of Columbia University with Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, President of *The New York Times* and a member of the University's Board of Trustees, as the speaker.

Though the threat of atomic war in no way interfered with our activities, certain precautions were taken, as in the past, to insure the preservation of our possessions. The President got in touch with the owner of our World War out-of-town depository late in 1950 and arranged for the possible future use of the same facilities; the Director met with other library and museum executives and with them examined a large and safe hideout some miles from the city and made tentative plans for its use.

In 1950 our first series of historical and documentary motion pictures was shown on Saturday afternoons and three years later, on December 6, 1953, we inaugurated a series of Sunday afternoon concerts given by the seniors and recent graduates of the music schools of the city, including vocal and instrumental soloists, quartettes and choruses, all of which played to packed

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

houses with many turned away. We received many letters from some of our more recent citizens voicing their appreciation for the pictures which told them so much about their new country and the concerts which brought to them again the classical music they loved but could not afford to hear in the great concert halls.

In the years from 1947 to 1954 treasures poured into our collections in great profusion. Mr. Waldron Phoenix Belknap, a scholarly man of old family, had an excellent idea. He would assemble a collection of the family portraits and silver of his ancestors. For years he pursued his hobby and with remarkable success. At his untimely death he left to our Society this priceless collection to which his estate has added from time to time, and with it a fund of \$15,000 for its maintenance and enlargement. The original bequest included nineteen oil portraits of great merit, nine miniatures, and ten individual pieces or sets of family silver. The portraits included seven of great historical value from the colonial period of New York, three by Trumbull, two by Inman, three by Durand, one by Jarvis, and two by E. L. Mooney. The collection was placed on exhibition at a private view for the family and their friends on October 18, 1950, and will be shown as a unit every five years as a memorial to the donor. A catalogue is in preparation with the cooperation of the Harvard University Press which will publish it within the calendar year.

Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy has spent more than half a lifetime in collecting, with knowledge and discriminating taste, the household furnishings of our seventeenth- and eighteenth-century ancestors, three rooms of which she and her brother, Mr. Edmund Astley Prentis, one of the Trustees of the Society, have given to us as a memorial to their mother, Mrs. Edmund Astley Prentis, Sr. The Prentis Collection is of such superb quality that it is not surpassed by any collection, public or private, in the country. The three rooms, a magnificent seventeenth-century dining room, a late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century drawing room, and an early eighteenth-century bed-



NEW ENGLAND BEDROOM, C. 1725-1750, AT THE SOCIETY
*Gift of Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy and Mr. Edmund Astley Prentis
 in memory of their mother, Mrs. Edmund Astley Prentis, Sr.*

room, are now installed as period rooms in the north wing of our second floor where they have been visited and greatly admired by the leading collectors in this field. With them are shown a remarkably complete collection of Dr. Wall Worcester porcelain and a surprisingly large collection of Whieldon ware, both of the eighteenth century, as well as a choice collection of continental and English delft pottery and several superb Lambeth pieces. The seventeenth- and eighteenth-century portraits in the collection include excellent examples of the work of Smibert, Greenwood, Theüs, and that mysterious primitive artist J. Cooper.

When the Prentis Rooms were opened with a reception and preview on May 15, 1951, the distinguished gathering listened to a delightful and authoritative address by Mr. J. A. Lloyd Hyde.



NEW ENGLAND PARLOR, c. 1700-1725, AT THE SOCIETY

*Gift of Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy and Mr. Edmund Astley Prentis
in memory of their mother, Mrs. Edmund Astley Prentis, Sr.*

On this occasion Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Prentis were presented by President Beekman with diplomas as Patrons of the Society. Each guest was given a booklet descriptive of the collection in which the late Joseph Downs, Curator of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, wrote of the furnishings and the late John Marshall Phillips, Director of the Yale University Art Gallery, of the portraits and silver.⁶² For their share in the evening's entertainment, Messrs. Hyde, Downs and Phillips were made Associate Members of the Society. In the hall adjoining the Prentis Collection, Mrs. Murphy has placed her large and delightful collection of old time dolls and toys which admirably supplements the Society's original collection shown in the same corridor.

The late Mrs. J. Insley Blair was one of the most discriminat-

ing collectors of American antiques. Having enjoyed her hobby for many years she generously decided to share her treasures with her favorite museums. Many wonderful pieces were given to us by Mrs. Blair during her lifetime and some of the best were left to us in her will. To these her two daughters added other pieces so that we now have in our museum many of the choicest treasures of this wonderful collection, including Staffordshire pottery with American views, early American glass, pottery, textiles, furniture, watercolors, and prints.

For many years we have owned the extremely important collection of papers of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, to which the various members of the family have recently added over 2,000 letters and documents, including personal family letters of Gallatin of great historical value. The collection has been further enriched by the addition of household furnishings and family portraits, the latter by bequest from our late Trustee, Mr. A. E. Gallatin. The portraits include five original oils and one miniature and copies of 15 ancestral portraits. The originals include a portrait of Albert Gallatin by Daniel Huntington, his son Albert R. Gallatin, Mrs. Albert R. Gallatin by Sully, Jean L. de Gallatin, Madame Gallatin by P. L. Bouvier, and Marie Madeleine, Comtesse de Lafayette, by Pierre Mignard.

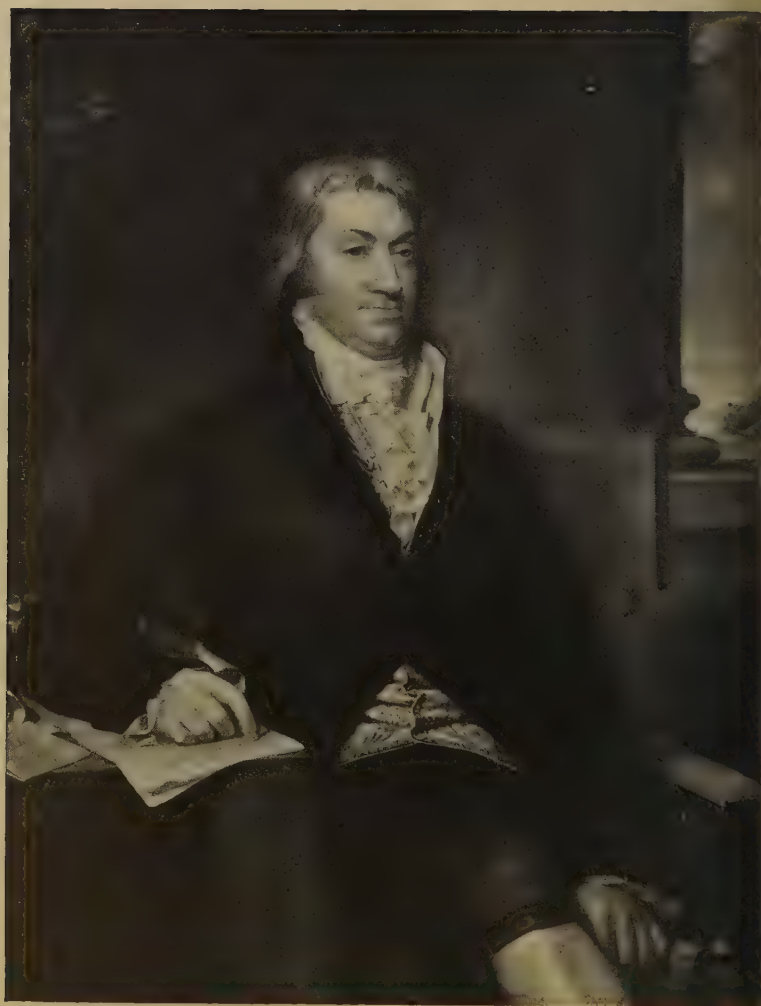
Chancellor Robert R. Livingston was one of the most distinguished Americans of the period of the Revolution and the early days of the Republic. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence while a member of the Continental Congress, served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Chancellor of New York State, United States Minister to France during the Napoleonic regime at which time he negotiated the purchase of Louisiana, and partner of Robert Fulton in the first steamboat enterprise. He had two daughters both of whom married distant Livingston cousins. From his younger daughter at least half of his personal effects and virtually all of his family papers descended to the Chancellor's great-grandson, Richard M. C. Livingston who died in France on March 16, 1945, leaving the possessions of the

Chancellor and his daughter to his distant cousin the late Goodhue Livingston of New York City.

This collection included some sixty oil paintings, many pieces of furniture, silver, glass, jewelry, a considerable library and a great mass of thousands of family papers, many of them of great historical significance. The portraits in the collection included those of Robert Livingston (Third Lord of the Manor of Livingston) and his wife by Thomas Mollworth,⁵³ 1764; Mrs. Robert Livingston (wife of the Chancellor) by Gilbert Stuart and two portraits of their son-in-law, Robert Livingston Livingston, one by St. Mémin.

Much of the furniture was French but there was a set of thirteen mahogany dining-room chairs, presumably by Duncan Phyfe, and several other American pieces. There was much fine silver in the collection and a large amount of period jewelry. The library, largely English and French, contained a few important books of American interest; but the really important part of the collection, other than the portraits, was the mass of thousands of letters to and from Chancellor Livingston and other members of the family, the personal and manorial papers for several generations. There were many important letters from Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, John Adams, Hamilton, Madison, Monroe, Steuben, Lafayette, John Paul Jones, Thomas Paine, Philip Schuyler, Duane, Gates, Greene, Burr, Gallatin, a large collection by Robert Fulton and John Stevens relating to the early steamboat enterprise, Rufus King, John Jay, Gouverneur Morris, George and DeWitt Clinton, Barbé-Marbois, Talleyrand, Livingston's letterbooks and retained copies of hundreds of his letters, and the official correspondence relating to the purchase of Louisiana, including Napoleon's authorization for the sale of the territory.

We feared that this important collection would be split up and scattered, so President Beekman had a conference with Mr. Goodhue Livingston, who was an old friend of his, and persuaded him that such part of the collection as the family did not



CHANCELLOR ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON (1746-1813)

Painted at Paris by John Vanderlyn, 1804

Gift of Mrs. Thomas Livingstone, 1876

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

should be kept together as a memorial to the Chancellor and his family and that it should come to us. The idea appealed to Mr. Livingston and so, after his family had selected a few pieces which particularly interested them, the bulk of the collection, including all but one of the paintings (a copy of Stuart's portrait of the Chancellor) and all of the precious manuscripts, were turned over to us in a series of annual gifts begun by Mr. Livingston in 1950 and completed by Mrs. Livingston in 1954 after his death. Thus was rescued for the use of scholars one of the most important collections of historical material to come to light in many a year. It is a pleasure to report that, with these manuscripts available at last, the first full-scale biography of the Chancellor is now being written by a competent scholar.

Such an institution as ours is valuable to scholars and to the public only when it has rich resources for their study, admiration, and enjoyment. Through the continued generosity of our friends and the understanding policy of our official Board, we have, during these eight years, added great treasures to those already within our walls. Those of you who seek original materials for your study or who have family treasures for which you wish to find an appreciative permanent home, will find in the following lists many suggestions of the richness of our holdings and of the types of material we seek.

Family and business papers are valuable not only to the biographer and genealogist but also to the social and economic historian. Here are a few such collections, chosen almost at random from those acquired during these recent years: The James and Henry Lloyd account book, dealing with the early settlement of Queens Village and Lloyd's Neck on Long Island, 1673-1731; 100 Van Schaack letters from many important personages, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; a further large addition to our already important Duane family papers; a large additional collection of Beekman family papers, 1684-1914; 2,000 Reverend Philip Milledoler papers, 1785-1852, including his autobiography and three diaries before he became first Presi-

dent of Rutgers College and a large collection dealing with that institution which came to light just in time to be used in a history of Rutgers University. We also received 1,000 personal papers of Madame Stephen Jumel; 600 eighteenth-century papers of Nicholas Bayard; 500 papers of the Jay family and the account books of Augustus and Peter Jay, 1724-1768, grandfather and father of John Jay; 43 letters by Theodosia Burr⁶⁴ and one each by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Burr, 1788-1802; 400 filing boxes of the legal papers of Lewis L. Delafield, 1834-1944; the diaries of E. N. Taler, 1845-1917; six filing cabinets of the personal correspondence of General James G. Harbord; hundreds of volumes of the records of the Hudson River Day Line of steamboats and its predecessors; nearly 400 letters of George Washington Strong, New York businessman, 1783-1855; 400 volumes and 100 file cases of the papers of Samuel Thompson's Nephew and Company (the Black Ball line of clipper ships); 300 papers of William Smith, Jr., historian of Canada, part of them relating to the affairs of his father, William Smith, first historian of New York. There were also the "lost" colonial records of Esopus or Kingston, New York, 1643-1826; a collection of the architectural drawings of John McComb, Jr., and a large and valuable collection of business correspondence, architectural plans and photographs of the distinguished firm of McKim, Mead and White,⁶⁵ beginning with 1879; early papers of the well-known Seligman family; 50 interesting documents of French and Heiser, proprietors of Castle Garden; 400 important letters from the sculptor John Rogers to his family, 1846-1864; 500 letters of the Squier family, including over 300 from the eminent archeologist E. G. Squier; the autobiography of James Herring, portrait painter;⁶⁶ record of the portraits painted by Oliver I. Lay, 1861-1889; and two collections of Colonial papers of great importance: the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century New York City letters and documents collected by the late Gabriel Wells, including some of the earliest letters from New Amsterdam; and the papers, muster rolls, and account book (to-

her with several unique broadsides) relative to the Colonel Francis Nicholson and Colonel Samuel Vetch expedition to Canada in 1709-1711.⁵⁷

We always find Colonial manuscripts such as the following—all acquired during Dr. Beekman's administration—of great interest: part of the manuscript of the *History of the Massachusetts Bay Colony* by Governor Thomas Hutchinson, with accompanying unpublished manuscripts on Colonial history; original Indian deed for part of the original town of Oyster Bay, signed with the totems of the chiefs, 1669; original patent from Queen Anne to Lancaster Symes for a large part of Staten Island, 1708; two scientific notebooks of Cadwallader Colden, later Lieutenant Governor of Colonial New York, 1706; two maps by an army engineer showing the regions from Albany to Crown Point and from Albany along the Mohawk River to Oswego, from the collection of the Marquis of Bute, about 1756; memorial to the Governor of New York, signed by William Bradford, New York's first printer, and by Charles Le Roux, engraver of the paper money of the Colony, 1715; and the account book of Ellis Fonda, Mohawk Valley Indian trader, 1768-1775.

We have always considered that material relating to the Revolutionary War and the last half of the eighteenth-century was our particular concern and so we are happy to record a number of newly acquired items in this field: a letter from General George Washington to Major Tallmadge, his chief of army intelligence, regarding the report of a spy, 1779;⁵⁸ a letter from General John Burgoyne to General Riedesel ordering his German mercenaries to join the Burgoyne Expedition, 1777; General Riedesel's journal of the campaign; letter of Captain Horatio Nelson, then a young British naval captain in the Revolution, written in New York Harbor, 1782; George Washington's plan for taking New York from the British, in his own handwriting, 1781; Patrick Wall's New York City and Halifax Revolutionary War Tory tailor's account book in which General and Mrs. Benedict Arnold are recorded as customers, 1781-1784; journal

of the siege of Savannah by the French troops under Lafayette, written by Chevalier de Meyronnet de Saint-Marc, 1779;⁵⁹ the British headquarters orderly books of 1777-1778; General Alexander McDougall's orderly book of American operations in the Hudson Valley, 1781; the Tomlinson collection of 1,500 Revolutionary and other eighteenth-century papers of Colonel Richard Varick, Marinus Willett, George Clinton, and the Livingston family; also 600 similar papers from the Townsend and Van Rensselaer families; and the extremely interesting and important New York Loyalist oath of allegiance to the King signed by over 700 Tories, New York, November 28, 1776;⁶⁰ 18 letters from John Ramage, the Loyalist miniature painter, to his wife, together with a collection of his other family papers; the minutes of the New York City Board of Health organized to combat epidemics, 1793-1796, containing source materials for the history of Bellevue Hospital.⁶¹

We have also recently acquired three single items of a later period which have their appeal: *Experiments on the Model of a Boat to be Moved by a Steam Engine*, by Robert Fulton, Paris, 1803; letter from the New York State Canal Commissioners to President James Madison asking for Federal aid in building the Erie Canal, 1811; and last and little but by no means least, the unpublished autobiography of the Countess Magri, formerly Mrs. Tom Thumb, Barnum's famous midget.⁶²

Not all of our interesting new additions to the library were in manuscript. Here are some of the books. First, a note of some of the more interesting large collections: the great Lathrop Colgate Harper, Litt.D., Spanish-American War Collection of over 6,000 items; the entire library of military history of the Seventh Regiment, National Guard, to the number of 9,000 volumes; General James G. Harbord's military library on the Philippines and World War I, containing over 400 volumes; a selection from Colonel G. Creighton Webb's library, including over 400 books, 200 photographs, and some important manuscripts; 700 volumes from the earlier generations of the Beekman family; a large col-

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

tion of business ephemera having to do with the operation of the Hudson River Day Line of steamboats; a collection of 118 volumes on bookplates; 700 volumes from the library of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston; 300 volumes, 360 maps, and a mass of historical notes from the library of the historian, C. A. Hanna; an excellent collection of material from the library of Tompkins and his widow; 150 volumes on art and family history from the estate of A. E. Gallatin; 500 volumes and many historical notes and manuscripts from the estate of Victor Hugo Eltsits.

Our collection of New York City newspapers was greatly improved by securing the office files of the *New York Sun*, 1833-1949, in 1,800 volumes and a card index of its files from 1815 to 1924 on 420,000 cards; the *New York Tribune* and *Herald-Tribune*, 1843-1916 in 650 volumes; the *New York World*, 1860-1931, in 1,443 volumes; and the completion by microfilm of our partial file of the *New York Times*, so that we now have this important paper complete from its first issue in 1651 (of which we have the only known original) to date. We also secured the publisher's files of Jules Leroux's radical newspapers *Étoile du Kansas*, *Étoile du Kansas et de l'Iowa* and *Étoile des Pauvres*, 1873-1883.

We would like to mention a couple of dozen delectable dainties which, having come to us during the last eight years, would gladden the heart of any collector of Americana. Some of them are unique and all are extremely rare and important. As is eminently fitting, the first edition of the King James Bible heads the list. Ours is the second issue, generally called the "She Bible." Then follow Father Vimont's Jesuit Relation for 1642-1643; and Father Lallemant's Jesuit Relation of 1647; then a lovely Dutch title: *Den Distelvink* [the Thistle-Finch] by Jacob Steendam, the first poet of New Amsterdam, 1649-1650; Father Bressani's Jesuit Relation of 1653; Father Jean de Quen's Jesuit Relation of 1655-1656; Cotton Mather's *Late Memorable Providences Relating to Witchcraft*, London, 1691; his *Life of the Re-*

owned *John Eliot*, Boston, 1691; and his *Johannes in Eremo*, Boston, 1695, being the lives of John Cotton, John Norton, etc.; four broadsides relating to the Vetch-Nicholson Expedition of 1709, two of them unique Bradford imprints and one printed in Boston with only one other located; a New York broadside issued by Governor Hunter, printed by Bradford in 1715 and also unique; the Dutch Bible of the Vanderbilt family, containing their manuscript genealogical records, Amsterdam, 1718; Burnet's *Essay on Scripture Prophecy*, 1724, one of seven known copies of Bradford's finest piece of printing; *The French Convert*, 1725, the unique and unrecorded earliest example of the printing of John Peter Zenger without a partner; the 1742 treaty with the Six Nations of Indians; the two most famous Ephrata Cloister imprints: *Der Blütige Schau-Platz oder Martyrer Spiegel*, 1748; and *Paradisches Wunder-Spiel*, 1766. Then we have Thomas Pownall's *Considerations Towards a Plan for the English Provinces*, London, 1756, of which we can locate one other copy in the Library of Congress; next follows Ethan Allen's *Brief Narrative of the Proceedings of the Government of New York*, 1774, one of the most important tracts relating to the controversy over the New Hampshire Grants, of which we can locate a half-dozen copies; six more lovely items, all unique Revolutionary War broadsides published in New York; and the all-but-unique broadside edition of the Declaration of Independence published in New York by Hugh Gaine in 1776; and, on the other side, the British broadside announcing the capture of Forts Clinton, Constitution, and Montgomery which opened the Hudson to the English in 1777. Coming down to a much later day, we are glad to record our ownership of the first Hawaiian editions of the books of Matthew, Mark, and John, printed separately at Rochester in 1828-1829 to be sent back to the Islands for incorporation in the first edition of the native Bible published some years later. As a wonderful example of the art of extra-illustration we would like to mention the copy of John W. Francis' *Old New York* which has been extended from

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

to thirteen volumes by the insertion of hundreds of rare manuscripts, drawings, watercolors, and prints.

Hundreds of maps come to us every year but we were greatly pleased to get a beautiful copy of Henry Popple's *British Empire North America*, 1733, which is seven feet square; the rarest state (one of two or three copies known) of the famous Latzer plan of New York City as it was in 1766-1767; and as we have already mentioned, four of the original copper plates for the *Atlantic Neptune* of 1774-1781.

Of sheet music we will mention only two single items and one collection. When George Washington was travelling to New York to be inaugurated our first President, he passed through Trenton, New Jersey, where the townspeople went all out to do him honor. For that thrilling occasion the eminent musician Alexander Reinagle wrote *A Sonata* in honor of the nation's hero which was sung to him at the welcoming ceremony and immediately published. Apparently only three copies have survived and now we have one of them. Even rarer is *André's Complaint*, published in New York about 1798, and we have that too. Mrs. Bella C. Landauer, whose great collection of Business and Professional Ephemera is an important treasure of our Society, recently gave us a wonderful collection of nearly 1,200 pieces of sheet music with pictorial covers, about half of which relates in some way to New York City.

Many years ago Mrs. Landauer gave us her splendid collection of American and foreign bookplates. To this, in the last eight years, we have added nine other collections totalling about 2,000 items, including virtually complete collections of the works of such famous designers as E. D. French, S. L. Smith, and A. N. Macdonald, together with many original bookplate designs and original woodblocks and cuts, as well as a library of 118 volumes on the subject. With what we already had in the Landauer collection and in the main library, ours is now one of the notable collections of the country.

For many years Henry O. Havemeyer, Esquire, a member of

our Board, amused himself by the collecting of American historical engravings and lithographs and eventually made a surprisingly complete collection of about 5,000 of them which he has now given to us. They include portraits of the Presidents, Cabinet and Supreme Court members, statesmen, generals, scenes and battles of the Revolution, Mexican and Civil Wars. From other sources we received 200 mezzotint engravings by the Sartains; nearly 800 engravings and lithographs showing symbolic representations of the four continents; nearly 1,200 United States Government posters of World War II, which admirably supplement our great collection relating to World War I; and about 125 circus and theatrical posters and over a hundred original drawings for such posters.

We will content ourselves with mentioning only a handful of our recent separate prints. Perhaps the most exciting of all is the unique *View of Fort George*, which was located where the New York Custom House now stands at the foot of Broadway. It was engraved and colored by William Burgis about 1730 to 1731.⁶³ He, you will remember, was the artist of the famous first published panorama of the city, of which we have one of the two known copies. We must confess to a partiality for the engravings of the Four Kings of Canada, as the New York Indian chiefs were called, who were taken to visit Queen Anne in 1710 and who were frequently painted and engraved while they were in England. We have now picked up a set of these prints which we did not previously have. They were engraved by Peter Schenck in 1710. And, speaking of Indians, we also secured a contemporary impression of the copper plate with an Indian council engraved at the top (of which we own the original copper) which Sir William Johnson used in 1770 as a testimonial to the fidelity of his Indian allies,⁶⁴ which goes to prove that the harsh old saying that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" is by no means true. And this logically leads to a mention of the rare print of George Catlin's oil portrait of Osceola, the Seminole Chief, which was used as a model for the best "cigar store Indian" in our museum.⁶⁵

Let us now take a hasty glance at a half-dozen other recently acquired prints, each typical of a type of illustrative material which finds a welcome home in our cabinets. Here, for example, the very rare English caricature of an event in our Revolutionary war entitled *The Patriotic Barber*, one of a series of which we now have the first three; next we turn to the very rare *View of Yale College* engraved by Amos Doolittle in 1807; and then to two fine prints of West Point, one after Doughty and the other after Havell; a series of hand-blocked wallpapers sufficient to paper a room, showing views of New York City and West Point about 1834; the charming and spirited *Capture of a Sperm Whale*, an aquatint by J. Hill after William Page; and lastly two important original copper plates used in printing Audubon's *Birds of America*, of which we own most of the original watercolors.

Silhouettes are always quaint and delightful and very often they are the only portraits ever made of their subjects. We were therefore very glad to secure silhouettes of President Millard Fillmore, of Pierre Lorillard, the famous tobacco manufacturer, and of the New York merchant, George Griswold by August Edouart; also silhouettes of Marinus Willett and William Livingston, made at the Peale Museum in Philadelphia, and an album of 100 other shades by Peale and King, as well as photographic negatives of 3,800 silhouettes of Americans by August Edouart, copied from the artist's own collection.

Our photographic collection grows at an amazing rate. In these eight years we have secured about 50,000 negatives, including 40,000 showing the pictorial history of the building of our subways and elevated railroads, together with 50,000 prints; 900 negatives of east coast steamboats (the T. H. Franklin Collection); 1,000 of buildings designed by the architect, R. M. Hood, and a large similar collection from McKim, Mead and White; 4,000 negatives of famous people, street scenes, and events by the famous photographer, Arnold Genthe; nearly 500 negatives of New York City by H. N. Tiemann; 64 albums of elevated-railroad photographs; 760 New York City photographs of un-

usual interest and historical importance by Jacob Riis and Robert L. Bracklow; 339 photographs of famous Americans, 1940-1947, by Pach Brothers, to add to the thousand from their studio already in our print room; and two magnificent photographs of Abraham Lincoln printed from recently rediscovered negatives by Alexander Hesler, 1860.

How can we give you any idea of the rich new treasures of our art galleries in so little space? At any rate, here is a hint of what is in store for you when you come to visit us. In addition to the seven Hudson Valley Colonial oil portraits in the Belknap Collection, here are a few others of the Colonial period: Edward Hyde, Lord Cornbury, Governor of New York, dressed as a woman, by an early New York artist; study in oils of Gaius Caligula and two plumbago drawings: Governor William Burnet and Daniel Hendrickson by New Jersey's first artist, John Watson; the following by the elusive J. Cooper: Gentleman with a violin (signed), Princess Anne (later Queen Anne) with three children, Prince George (consort of Princess Anne), and Queen Anne; Anthony Duane (1679-1747) attributed to Evert Duyckinck III; Dominie Johannes Weeckstein, third pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Kingston, New York, by Mathys Naiveu; Thomas Appleford by John Wollaston, 1746;⁶⁸ Robert Livingston and his wife by Thomas McIlworth; Mrs. Sarah Presbury West by Christian Gullager; Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Carne by Jeremiah Theus; Mrs. Clarke Gayton by John Smibert, and her niece, Mrs. E. A. Holyoke (Judith Pickman) by John Greenwood; Dr. Benjamin Young Prime by John Mare,⁶⁹ 1774; Governor John Winslow's son and daughter, by a colonial New England artist; and Cadwallader Colden, after Matthew Pratt.

You may find these portraits of a somewhat later period interesting either for their artists or because their subjects have some historical importance: Honorable John Watts, Jr., by G. Bruecke; Dominick Lynch by John Vanderlyn; Mrs. Daniel Truman and child by Reuben Moulthrop; Mr. and Mrs. James Codwise by John Trumbull (what a lot of these artists were

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

med John!); Mrs. Albert R. Gallatin by Thomas Sully; Captain Henry B. Brevoort of Battle of Lake Erie fame by Bassie; David Garrick and Mayor James Duane by Robert Edgecombe and Mrs. Duane by Ralph Earl; Chief of the Little Osage tribe of Indians (watercolor) and Robert Livingston Livingston by St. Mémin; Mrs. Robert R. Livingston by Gilbert Stuart; Stels by members of the Sharples family of General John Smith (1756-1816) and Peter Augustus Jay (President of our Society); a pastel of Harriet Warner by G. Schipper, 1806; Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Beckman by Jacob Eichholtz; Right Reverend John Henry Hobart by John Paradise, together with the artist's self-portrait and those of four other members of his family; drawing of Henri Gallon by John James Audubon; and the very important large group: The Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1830, a watercolor by George Catlin.⁶⁸

We also take pride in showing you the following canvases by John Wesley Jarvis: Henry H. Pantton; Mayor Caleb Smith Woodhull; a watercolor of Susannah Shannon; and a watercolor of a gentleman of the Sosman family, 1809; and these by William Sidney Mount: Bishop and Mrs. Benjamin T. Onderdonk; and Anne C. Hood, 1863; Robert W. Weir's self-portrait as well as his canvas of Nathaniel Platt Bailey and his jolly portrayal of Santa Claus;⁶⁹ Oliver I. Lay's Cyrus W. Field and his six splendid pencil studies from life of Edwin Booth, used in painting the well-known portrait of the great actor at the Players' Club; Seymour J. Guy's portrait of Benjamin G. Edmonds; Mayor Stephen Allen by Waldo and Jewett, 1846; Nathaniel Platt Bailey by Daniel Huntington and the portrait of Mayor Philip Hone attributed to him. We also have portraits of Daniel Webster by J. G. Chandler and Chester Harding; Henry Clay by Giuseppe Fagnani, 1850; Governor and Secretary of State William H. Seward by Emanuel Leutze; President U. S. Grant by J. R. Lambdin, 1868, and by T. W. Brown; an equestrian portrait of General Winfield Scott by H. B. Hall; and General George B. McClellan by E. D. Marchant.



SECTION OF THE S

Or perhaps you would like to see what some of the following people looked like: Charles L. Tiffany (founder of Tiffany and Company), at the age of 26, by William H. Powell, 1840; Horace Greely by F. B. Carpenter, 1874; the archeologist, Ephraim George Squier, by J. H. Lazarus; Reverend Henry Ward Beecher by T. W. Brown; William Rhinelanders Stewart by Ellen E. Rand; or Lucretia Morse by E. H. May. Of a still more recent date we can offer you the 87 oil, watercolor, and crayon portraits, mostly from life, of a great variety of contemporary celebrities from presidents to pugilists by Énit Kaufman; Samuel Untermyer by Anders Zorn, 1901; the marine engineer (built the foundations of the Statue of Liberty), artist, novelist and raconteur, F. Hopkinson Smith, by J. A. St. John; Chauncey M. Depew by S. M. Stone, 1929; Frank A. Munsey by



PAINT GALLERY

Howard Chandler Christy; and three more examples of the portraiture of our Recording Secretary, DeWitt M. Lockman, N.A.: "Coco" (George Hubert Herbert), the famous Barnum and Bailey Circus clown; President Fenwick Beekman, M.D.; and Director R. W. G. Vail. There are also the following unsigned portraits of considerable historical interest: Mrs. Phoebe Hand Vanderbilt, mother of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt; Reverend Charles Henry Parkhurst, the reformer; Governor Silas Wright; Harvey Dodworth, the famous early New York bandmaster; and a Stuyvesant family group including Gerard and his wife, Susan (Rivington) Stuyvesant and their two small boys, Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Sr., and Robert R. Stuyvesant, bequeathed to us by Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Jr., the last of the New York Stuyvesants.

From oil portraits we turn naturally to miniatures. By John Ramage, whose surviving papers and personal possessions we also own, we have miniatures of Isaac Carleton and General Alexander McDougall; by E. G. Malbone: Mrs. William Coggeshall and the famous merchant, Nicholas Brown of Providence; by Robert Field: Governor John Langdon and an unidentified officer; also an unidentified gentleman signed by George Harvey, which is rare; unidentified lady and gentleman by James Peale, 1798; Mrs. Gerald DePeyster by Charles Willson Peale and an unsigned portrait of her husband; Abram DePeyster (probably) by Louis Binsse; Mrs. Cowman by Joseph Wood; Barbara Carrington by Thomas Gibson, 1793; President John Tyler by William Dunlap; Joseph Kip by Anson Dickinson; Katherine Polegreen attributed to Benjamin West; James Gallatin (son of Albert Gallatin) attributed to Jacques Louis David; the following by Henry Inman: Nathaniel Platt Bailey, Margaret Babcock, Henry James Genet (son of Citizen Genet), and Henry Livingston. Of more recent times, we have, among the nine miniatures in the Belknap collection, three of various members of the Lenox family by Aimee Thibault and unsigned miniatures of Robert and James Lenox; a group comprising Mrs. H. H. Ward and nephew and a self-portrait of the artist by Ann Hall; Mrs. William L. Morris (Mary Elizabeth Babcock) by Nathaniel Rogers; Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Sr., by Williams; Lucretia Morse by John Carlin; and unsigned portraits of General William Irvine (1741-1804); and of the eminent editor and historian, William Leet Stone and his wife.

Varied and interesting are the oil and watercolor paintings which we have recently collected to illustrate the history of our country. Of peculiar charm and unusual historical value are the 88 pencil and watercolor sketches of scenes, people, Indian and other types made in this State and other parts of the country, 1807-1822, by the Baroness Hyde de Neuville^m; Alfred Jacob Miller's important Plains Indian and buffalo picture: *The Surround*, 1840^m; Fort Ticonderoga and two of Niagara Falls by

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

lieutenant Thomas Davies of the British Army, 1759; the watercolor of a Revolutionary blockhouse at West Point by Archibald Robertson, 1802; *Forcing the North River in 1776* by William Bay after Dominique Serres, 1778⁷²; *The Wasp and the Frolic* by Thomas Birch and *Seascape with Schooner* by the same artist; *The Shannon and the Chesapeake* by J. T. Lee; and an unsigned watercolor of *The Launching of the Ohio at the New York Navy Yard*, 1820.

Perhaps you have been one of the many admirers of William L. Wall's charming and rare *Hudson River Portfolio*. If so you might like to see some of the many originals in our collection or one of his rare oil paintings: *American Mountain Scenery*, 1836. I am sure you would be charmed with the 24 oils and watercolors of George Harvey, many of them of scenes in New York City and State, which we have recently acquired; or the 134 oils, watercolor of *The Launching of the Ohio at the New York Navy Yard* by Miller in the same field.⁷³

If you like portraits of ships, our four newest James Bards will please you; or if you prefer romantic scenery or views of our colorful towns and villages, you may enjoy seeing our 1794 view of Cazenovia, New York, when it was a new settlement; or views of Niagara Falls by Antoine Philippe d'Orleans, Duc de Montensier, which this brother of Louis Philippe painted in 1804 from his mother from the sketch which he made on the spot in 1797 when the three famous brothers were exiles in America; or the delightful panoramic watercolor of the same falls by Ralph Gore, 1821, or the Alvan Fisher Niagara Falls of the same year. If you favor the Hudson River School, you will want to see Thomas Cole's sketch in oils and his pen and ink of a tree as well as the more famous examples of his art in our collection; and *Windsor Castle* by J. F. Kensett; *Catskill Mountain Scene* by A. D. O. Browere; *Landscape* by the veteran actor, Joseph Jefferson; or *The Scene in Northern New York* by R. Swain Gifford, 1851. If you like these, I am sure you would enjoy M. Ledyard's *Fort Putnam, West Point*, 1804; the *Old Covered Bridge at Sche-*

nectady, 1835-1840; *The Scythe Grinder* (a fine genre piece) by F. W. Edmonds, 1856; or perhaps the *Indian Hunting Scene* by George DeForest Brush.

If you are thrilled by the quaint corners of old New York you certainly will not want to miss these: *Park Row, Looking West to the Park Theatre and St. Paul's Chapel*, a watercolor by C. Milbourne, 1798; the Old Custom House at Staten Island as it appeared in 1800 by R. F. Gignoux; the rare view at the foot of Cortlandt Street in about 1818; two oils of the Madison Cottage at Fifth Avenue and 23d Street, once a popular roadhouse, which was torn down in 1852 to make way for Franconi's Hippodrome (an indoor circus) and later for the Fifth Avenue Hotel which gave us these paintings when it too bowed to the march of progress. Or perhaps you would prefer Louis Grube's painting of the William and Abraham Beekman House on the East River and the companion view from its garden, looking across Blackwell's Island (now misnamed Welfare Island) to the other side of the river, painted in 1857; or *New York Harbor* by Arthur Quarterly, about 1885. Perhaps you have a sentimental interest in the *Old Building of Hunter College* by Colin Campbell Cooper or can remember what it was like during *The Rush Hour at City Hall Park* which the same artist painted in 1906. Perhaps the not so *New Grand Central* by Ernest Albert was where you encountered the rush hour; if so you will find more restful the charming waterfront sketches of F. L. Hunter, made in 1878-1879 when there were still sailing ships at the East India Dock. Perhaps you have a sentimental attachment for the dear departed old Sixth Avenue Elevated, but I can't imagine why, and would like to see the charcoal which F. Hopkinson Smith made of it at Fourth Street many years ago.

If drawings and sketches *as such* appeal to you, you might like to look over the three volumes of sketches by Daniel Huntington; William Sidney Mount's pencil and pen-and-ink sketches of two men; F. O. C. Darley's original drawing: *Rip Van Winkle's Return*; or Howard Pyle's wash drawing: *Sailor on Shore Leave*

the *Battery* or his *Alexander Hamilton Addressing the Mob*; and there are even those who would be thrilled to have a chance to study the original plans of the *Mary Powell*, the *Washington*, or some of the other famous steamers which did or still ply the waters of the Hudson.

In no other period of our history have so many or such fine sculptures come to adorn our galleries. The twenty-six original masters by Malvina Hoffman had a special showing and attracted much favorable attention. They are as follows: Robert Bacon, diplomat; Artur Bodansky, conductor; Dr. Harvey Cushing, eminent brain surgeon; William Adams Delano, architect; Henry C. Frick, industrialist; Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, educator; Edward S. Harkness, industrialist and philanthropist; Mrs. Edward H. Harriman, social leader; Rita de Acosta Lydig, social leader; Anne Morgan, philanthropist; John Muir, nature poet and essayist; Ignace Paderewski, pianist; Ernest Peixotto, artist; Ernest Schelling, conductor; Felix M. and Paul M. Warburg, bankers; Thomas J. Watson, industrialist; Wendell L. Willkie, statesman; Ivan Mestrovic, sculptor and Miss Hoffman's teacher; Richard and Fidelia M. Hoffman, the sculptor's parents, the former an eminent pianist; Anna Pavlova, dancer; Michael Lordkin, dancer; Adolph S. Ochs, newspaper publisher; Dr. Herman Waksman, physician; and Swami Vivekananda of India. To these was added, from another source, a charming plaster medallion portrait of Malvina Hoffman herself, by Edward MacCartan whose bronze statuette of Diana, 1939, also recently came to us.

Mrs. William Penn Cresson, daughter of the eminent sculptor Daniel Chester French, and a notable sculptor in her own right, gave us the original plaster of her own portrait bust of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, the Arctic and Antarctic explorer, and the following distinguished examples of her father's art: the original study for the seated Abraham Lincoln in the national Lincoln Memorial at Washington; the full-size head of the same statue; a full-length Lincoln for the statue at Lincoln, Nebraska;

a seated Ralph Waldo Emerson; and busts of the following: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson, James Russell Lowell, Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, William H. Seward, and George Westinghouse. We also have his plaster statuette of the allegorical figures of Painting and Sculpture.

To our outstanding collection of the works of John Rogers we added the following bronze groups: *Courtship at Sleepy Hollow*, the *Peddler at the Fair*, and the *Mock Trial*; and these plaster groups: the extremely rare *Bushwhacker*, the *Council of War* (a variant), and a bust portrait of the sculptor's small son, John Rogers, Jr., as well as 22 other plaster groups, duplicates which, in some cases, improved our collection.

One of the most interesting sculptured portraits in the whole collection is the bust of Jeremiah Dodge, famous New York ship-carver and maker of figureheads, carved in wood by his son and partner, Charles J. Dodge.⁷⁴ There are also marble busts of Edmund Pendleton by Thomas Crawford, 1839, George Washington by Hiram Powers and General Winfield Scott by Lamberto Vito.

Some famous names will be found in the following list, famous sculptors as well as well-known subjects, and we are happy to have them all to add to our gallery of native American art. Among the bronzes are the following: a head of Abraham Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum; statuette of Albert Gallatin and bas-relief of Theodore Roosevelt by James Earle Fraser; a bas-relief of C. J. Ryan, Sr., by Paulanship; and a bust of President Herbert Hoover by Bryant Baker, 1921, as well as a statuette of Frederick MacMonnies' much-discussed *Bacchante* and Frederic Remington's famous *Broncho Buster*.

To some people life- and death-masks of famous people are rather gruesome but to the sculptor and the historian they are invaluable accurate records to be studied and treasured. We have had for some years copies of Volk's famous life mask of Lincoln, made in 1860, and a cast of Lincoln's right hand by the same

ptor. To these we have now added a bronze of the cast of his hand made at the same time. We also have a bronze cast of death mask of the poet and editor, Richard Watson Gilder, and plasters of the life masks of Mrs. George O. Holyoke made by John Rogers about 1862 and of John J. Audubon by Robert Howell, as well as death masks of George W. Bellows, the artist, by A. S. Colder, 1925; and of Don Marquis, humorist and essayist, by Adolf A. Weinman, 1937.

Three interesting sculptures of foreign origin are the famous Audon bust of Voltaire in plaster and a plaster statuette of the same subject, both from the Gallatin family; and a full-length terra cotta statue of *Amérique*, a replica of one of a set of allegorical figures representing the four continents in the gardens at Versailles.

The museum too has had its share of varied and interesting, beautiful and useful additions in these fruitful eight years of the Beekman administration. We have mentioned the wonderful Centis Rooms with their wealth of colonial furnishings, the many choice specimens of American furnishings from the collection of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, including her bequest of extremely rare early American glass and pottery, her gifts of china, chairs, settee, dresser, mirrors, a banjo clock, textiles, watercolors and prints; the beautiful mahogany Philadelphia high and lowboys from her collection; and we have spoken of the furniture in the Chancellor Livingston collection. We have also mentioned the early furniture from the old Beekman Mansion including tables, bookcases, silver, a crystal chandelier, etc., and the 17 pieces left to us by A. E. Gallatin.

Among the other pieces which have come in singly are these: tall clock by Asa Whitney of New York; an eighteenth-century Pennsylvania day bed and a Pennsylvania dower chest, attractively decorated by John Rank, 1804; a charmingly painted eighteenth-century Hudson Valley dower chest; a matching set including a settee, two arm chairs and two side chairs by John Henry Belter; and, by no means least, Abraham Lin-

coln's office safe. There are also three seventeenth-century New York Dutch leaded windows with coats of arms⁷⁶; two lead eagle gatepost ornaments of the late eighteenth century from near Kingston, New York; and an eighteenth-century Connecticut tavern sign.

We were very happy when we secured the mahogany workbench and tools of the eighteenth-century miniaturist, John Ramage, together with his manuscripts, books, silhouettes, silver, jewelry and miniatures, which had been described in one of our publications long before they came to us.⁷⁸

Of household furnishings recently acquired we would like to mention the following: The Clarence G. Michalis collection of some 500 pieces of early American glass and pottery; about 150 pieces of early nineteenth-century American pressed glass; 86 copper and gold lustre pitchers and 244 pieces of silver lustre; an exceptional large pair of Dr. Wall Worcester jugs of about 1770; and five pieces of cut glass given to Albert Gallatin by the Czar Nicholas I of Russia.

Of beautiful early American silver and gold ware we now have, in addition to the ten fine pieces or sets in the Belknap Collection, the excessively rare gold fork and spoon inscribed I.C.F. and made in New York by William G. Forbes in the eighteenth century (the only other similar pieces known are from the same set); the silver christening spoon of Cornelia Duyckinck, made in New York by Jesse Kip, dated August 25, 1686, and bearing a Dutch inscription around the underside of the bowl—the second oldest dated American spoon.⁷⁷ With these we proudly list the beautiful caudle cup made by Joseph Stokes of London, 1699–1700; and the Rhenish stone jug with silver mounts, engraved CF and VB, 1641; a silver tankard by Myer Myers from Murray Hill, about 1784; and another by Benjamin Wynkoop of New York, 1712. We also have received a beautiful gold insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati made in Paris for one of the original members.

Among the many costumes received, three stand out: the

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

ow brocaded wedding gown of Cornelia DePeyster and her
mond-clustre engagement ring of 1712; the satin brocaded
dding gown of Mary Lynch, 1740; and the Napoleonic court
rume of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston. In addition to
ces of intricate embroidery, crewel work and stump work, we
ceived about thirty interesting printed campaign banners and
adkerchiefs, a welcome addition to our already large collec-
n.

n the wonderful Eugene A. Pool naval history collection of
aterial on Captain James Lawrence, including manuscripts,
ntings, prints, books, weapons and relics, we received our
st perfect and beautiful ship model—the frigate *Chesapeake*.
hen the model was just finished, two old salts from the Sailor's
ug Harbor came over to see her. After a long and detailed in-
ection, the oldest turned to the builder of the model and said:
"That's her, all right!" They knew—they had both sailed on her!
her models recently received include the *Santa Maria*, the
Mayflower, the *Half Moon*, the frigate *Congress* (last sailing
gate of the Navy); the ocean packet *Albion* of the Black Ball
ne; an eighteenth-century Dutch fishing boat; the famous and
autiful Hudson River steamer *Mary Powell*; the equally
amous Mississippi River stern-wheeler the *Robert E. Lee*; a
elaware and Hudson Canal freight boat; a scale model of the
nker *Socony*, built in 1913; and the model of a 100,000-barrel
nker of 1936. While we are speaking of ships we must not
orget the most precious relic of all, the original ship's bell of
Robert Fulton's first steamboat, the *Clermont*, given us by the
resident of the Hudson River Day Line.

Not all of our treasures come from the sea or relate to the
Navy. The Army, too, has its place in our museum. So we were
ad to welcome two large collections of oldtime guns, pistols
nd revolvers, swords and other warlike equipment, one from the
United States Coast Guard and the other from the Seventh Regi-
ment, New York National Guard, as well as the personal mili-
itary equipment of Major General J. G. Harbord. Other choice

pieces came in singly, including a Kentucky flintlock rifle by Gumph, 1828; an eighteenth-century English flintlock "Tower" musket; a flintlock rifle carried in the Battle of Concord; an eighteenth-century flintlock musket which must have been dropped overboard from a frigate in the harbor, for it was scooped up by a steam shovel while excavating for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. We also were given two War of 1812 cannon; the saddlebags of Dr. Myron Orton, a War of 1812 Surgeon on the Niagara Frontier, complete with all the bottles and oldtime medicines; a War of 1812 presentation sword given to Lieutenant Colonel John Chrystie by Brigadier General Zebulon M. Pike in 1812; and a very rare Civil War uniform of Duryea's Zouaves. A most welcome addition to our collection of Revolutionary relics excavated in upper New York City and formerly exhibited at the Roger Morris-Washington Headquarters Mansion, was the personal collection of Reginald Pelham Bolton, a member of the Society's former Field Exploration Committee.

One type of military relic in which we are extremely interested is the engraved powder horn carried by the foot soldiers and artillerymen in all the wars down to the Mexican War. We have the second largest collection in any historical museum and so were happy to add these new-comers: the William Starling horn of 1760 with plans of Forts Niagara and Ontario engraved on it⁷⁸; the Henry McNeel Revolutionary horn, Totowa [Paterson, N. J.], 1780⁷⁹; the map horn of Daniel Menter, 1775; and the Black Hawk War horn of Tim Tansel, a professional horn engraver serving with the army, 1832. As appropriate decorations for our Revolutionary War gallery, we have added full-size reproductions of a dozen of the flags carried by our soldiers during this period.

Our basement museum also received a few valued additions, including two hand-pushed Dutch sleighs of the early nineteenth century; a Morrisania volunteer fire company's hose cart; and a pair of painted leather fire buckets of 1847, the most beautiful ones we ever saw. For a long time we have been searching for the camera and equipment of an oldtime daguerreotype studio

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

we have only recently secured one complete with all the materials necessary to make this charming earliest type of photograph. It is our ambition to use the oldtime method and equipment and see if we cannot make a modern daguerreotype rival those of the eighteen-forties and fifties.

The most curious and one of the most interesting museum pieces to come to us in many a day has just arrived as this is being written. It is none other than the original wooden leg of Honorable Gouverneur Morris, which came as the gift of one of his direct descendants. Morris was one of the two great men of New York to wear a wooden leg, the other, as you very well know, being old Peter Stuyvesant. But Morris appears to have lost his leg in a romantic rather than in a military encounter, as did the doubtless Peter. However, there seem to be two schools of thought as to the manner in which Gouverneur Morris came by his timber toe. One group of historical students maintains that he lost his balance and then his leg in falling from a carriage; the other asserts that the accident happened as he was precipitately fleeing from the wrath of a jealous and outraged husband. Be that as it may, the loss of the leg seems to have had no permanent effect on his later diplomatic or undiplomatic career. At any rate, we have the leg which has already become an object of admiration and veneration in the eyes of at least one eminent orthopedic surgeon with a taste for the history of his profession.

Being mindful of the near approach of the Society's hundred and fiftieth birthday, our President, on November 25, 1953, appointed a special Sesqui-Centennial Committee composed of Messrs. Dunlap (Chairman), Kimball, and Streeter, of the Board of Trustees, with the Director and himself as ex-officio members. As a result of their several meetings it was determined that the event could be satisfactorily celebrated by carrying out the following program:

1. A banquet for officers, trustees, and distinguished guests at the Union Club on May 3, 1954. How successfully this was carried out you will learn by turning to the final chapter of this volume.
2. To issue a Sesqui-Centennial Medal in bronze for presentation to

certain appropriate individuals and institutions and to be placed on sale to the commonality at \$1.50 the copy. This was most beautifully accomplished in a design by Ralph J. Menconi, executed by the Medallic Art Company in an edition of 800 copies. The design uses the seal of the Society on the obverse and a view of its building on the reverse, with appropriate lettering.

3. The holding of special exhibits on the Society's history. To this end, an exhibition dealing directly with the history of the Society was opened in the spring and another showing the chief treasures of the Society in the fall, with the portraits of the Presidents of the old institution decorating the main hall throughout the year.

4. The holding of a meeting for the members and invited guests on November 19, 1954, at which the President of the Society and Professor Allan Nevins of Columbia University should be the speakers and at which the Society's sixth Gold Medal for Achievement in History should be awarded. Plans for this meeting were accordingly made.

5. The writing of a Sesqui-Centennial History of The New-York Historical Society by the Director, to be published in time for the November 19th meeting. As you see, this, too, was accomplished.

In bringing up to date this account of President Beekman's administration, it is a pleasure to report that, on September 22, 1954, the Board of Trustees awarded him the Society's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in recognition of his twenty years of generous and outstanding leadership as a trustee and officer of the Society.

NOTES

¹ *Checklist of the Samuel Verplanck Hoffman Collection of Astrolabes and Sundials*, by H. Maxson Holloway, in *Annual Report* for 1945, p. 63-79, portrait and three illustrations; *The Champlain Astrolabe*, By George A. Zabriskie, in *Quarterly*, October 1942, p. 75-79, one illustration.

² *Quarterly*, April, 1942, p. 30.

³ A handsome new diploma was designed by E. D. French for presentation to the Patrons and Fellows. At the top, in the centre, is an heraldic eagle representing the national character of the Society, while underneath are shields containing the City and State coats of arms, surrounded by a scroll bearing the Society's name. Three medallions give views of the new building, the *Half Moon* being the vignette used on the older diploma of the Society, and an early view of New Amsterdam from the original by Block, owned by the Society, together with a suitable inscription.

⁴ Published by the Society as a 42-page pamphlet in 1904.

⁵ Published by the Society as a 35-page pamphlet in 1906.

⁶ *The New York Historical Society, 1804-1904*. By Robert Hendre Kelby, Librarian of the Society. (New York: Published for the Society, 1905.) 160 pp., 6 plates, 8vo., cloth.

⁷ "The Edwin Smith Papyrus" by James Henry Breasted, in our *Quarterly*, April

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

- ² p. 1-31, illus.; its presentation to the New York Academy of Medicine, in our *port*, 1948, p. 15-17.
- ³ *New York Sun*, August 11, 1907; Society's *Quarterly*, April 1921, p. 24.
- ⁴ From obituary notice in our *Quarterly*, July 1939, p. 67-68.
- ⁵ *Town Topics*, November 6, 1913.
- ⁶ *Town Topics*, January 11, 1917.
- ⁷ *New York Times*, May 22, 1925, p. 12.
- ⁸ *New Yorkers of the XIX Century*, by Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, 1897, 6, 48.
- ⁹ *New York Times*, May 13, 1925, p. 20.
- ¹⁰ Letter of Mrs. Van Rensselaer to President Weekes, Jan. 16, 1915.
- ¹¹ Letter of Mrs. Van Rensselaer to President Weekes, Dec. 26, 1916.
- ¹² Letter of Mrs. Van Rensselaer to President Weekes, Oct. 3, 1917.
- ¹³ Letter of Mrs. Van Rensselaer to President Weekes, Nov. 14, 1917.
- ¹⁴ Letter of Mrs. Van Rensselaer to President Weekes, Oct. 29, 1917.
- ¹⁵ *New York Times*, Jan. 3, 1917, p. 8.
- ¹⁶ *New York Times*, Jan. 4, 1917, p. 22, and Jan. 14, p. 15.
- ¹⁷ *New York Times*, January 5, 1917, p. 8.
- ¹⁸ Original report of Dr. Clarence S. Brigham, January 30, 1917.
- ¹⁹ Report of the Special Committee of The New-York Historical Society unanimously approved and adopted at a stated meeting held February 6, 1917. New York, 1917. 18 pp.
- ²⁰ *Books and People*, by Marion King, 1954, p. 161.
- ²¹ First annual report of the Museum of the City of New York, 1927, p. 19-20.
- ²² Obituary in *New York Times*, May 12, 1925, p. 23.
- ²³ *History Written With Pick and Shovel: Military Buttons, Belt-Plates, Badges, and Other Relics Excavated from Colonial, Revolutionary, and War of 1812 Campsites by the Field Exploration Committee of The New-York Historical Society.* William Louis Calver and Reginald Pelham Bolton. With an Introduction by Richard J. Koke. (New York: 1950.) xiii, 320 pp., illus., 8vo., cloth.
- ²⁴ Obituary notice of Robert Hendre Kelby, by Alexander J. Wall, in *Quarterly* January, 1928, p. 107-118, illus.
- ²⁵ "Alexander James Wall—A Eulogy," by George A. Zabriskie, in *Quarterly*, July 1944, p. 67-71, port.
- ²⁶ *New York Times* and *World*, December 3, 1913.
- ²⁷ *Calendar of the American Fur Company's Papers.* Compiled by Dr. Grace Lee Nute. (Washington: The Government Printing Office, 1945.) 2 volumes, 8vo.; "The Papers of the American Fur Company," by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, in *American Historical Review*, April 1928, p. 519-538. In this article Dr. Nute tells that we own the collection but there is no such statement in the calendar itself.
- ²⁸ See Stokes, *Iconography*, V: 1823-1824.
- ²⁹ Her portrait by Daniel Huntington is owned by the Society. A bronze tablet by the north door commemorates the Thompson bequest.
- ³⁰ *Quarterly*, July 1936, p. 75-78, 3 facsimiles.
- ³¹ *George Albert Zabriskie, 1868-1954*, by Dr. Fenwick Beekman, President of the Society, in *Quarterly*, April 1954, p. 169-171, portrait. Also in the same number: *The Writings of George A. Zabriskie*, by Charles E. Baker, p. 172-184. The Society owns oil portraits of Mr. Zabriskie by Wilford S. Conrow and Henry R. Rittenberg.
- ³² *New York Times*, March 3, 1941.
- ³³ *New York Times*, March 4, 1941.
- ³⁴ "The Eugene H. Pool Collection of Captain James Lawrence," by Charles E. Baker, in our *Quarterly*, July 1944, p. 81-95, illus.
- ³⁵ *The Astrolabes of the World*, by Robert T. Gunther, 1932, 2 volumes; "The Champlain Astrolabe," by George A. Zabriskie, in our *Quarterly*, October 1942,

KNICKERBOCKER BIRTHDAY

p. 75-79, illus.; "Checklist of the Samuel Verplanck Hoffman Collection of Astro-labes and Sundials," by H. Maxson Holloway, in our *Report* for 1945, p. 63-71, illus.

⁴¹ In our *Quarterly*, October 1938, p. 107-124, illus.

⁴² "Alexander James Wall—A Eulogy," by George A. Zabriskie, in the Society's *Quarterly*, July 1944, p. 67-71, portrait; "The Published Writings of Alexander J. Wall," by Charles E. Baker, in same, p. 96-104; same, enlarged in Mrs. Wall's charming biographical volume: *Entre Nous: An Intimate Portrait of Alexander J. Wall* by Lillian B. Wall (New York: The New-York Historical Society, 1949, xii, 267 pp., illus., 8vo., cloth).

⁴³ "The Society Welcomes a New Director," by LeRoy E. Kimball, in our *Quarterly*, October, 1944, p. 159-166, illus.

⁴⁴ "The Society's New President: Fenwick Beekman, M.D.," by George A. Zabriskie, in our *Quarterly*, April 1947, p. 65-67, portrait.

⁴⁵ The addresses of presentation and acceptance appear in: "Tapestry Commemorating the Coming of the Belgians to Manhattan Island," in our *Quarterly*, October 1953, p. 309-315, illus.

⁴⁶ A Gift from Old York to New York," by Alexander J. Wall, Jr., in our *Quarterly*, July 1947, p. 163-165, illus.

⁴⁷ "Presentation of The New-York Historical Society's Gold Medal for Achievement in History to Harry Twyford Peters," by Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, in our *Quarterly*, April 1948, p. 79-87, illus. Reprinted as a separate, 1948, in an edition of 250 copies.

⁴⁸ Published in our *Quarterly*, July 1952, pp. 289-299, illus.

⁴⁹ *250th Anniversary of the Parish of Trinity Church in the City of New York: Catalogue of the Commemorative Exhibition of Historical Treasures from the Collections of the Parish of Trinity Church and of The New-York Historical Society* (The Society: 1947), 48 pp., illus.

⁵⁰ R.W.G. Vail, *Gold Fever, A Catalogue of the California Gold Rush Exhibition* (The Society: 1949), 40 pp., illus.

⁵¹ Cleveland Rogers and Rebecca B. Rankin, "Greater New York's First Birthday," in our *Quarterly*, January 1948, pp. 5-19, illus.

⁵² *The Prentis Collection of Colonial New England Furnishings*. Described by Joseph Downs and John Marshall Phillips, in our *Quarterly*, April 1951, pp. 140-169, illus., partly in color. Same reprinted as a separate, 1951, 32 pp., illus., partly in color.

⁵³ Susan Sawitzky, "Thomas McIlworth (active 1758 to c. 1769) . . .," in our *Quarterly*, April 1951, pp. 117-139, illus.

⁵⁴ Dorothy Valentine Smith, "An Intercourse of the Heart: Some Little-Known Letters of Theodosia Burr," in our *Quarterly*, January 1953, pp. 41-53, illus.

⁵⁵ Wayne Andrews, "McKim, Mead and White: New York's Own Architects," in our *Quarterly*, January 1951, pp. 87-96, illus.

⁵⁶ Charles E. Baker, "'The World Was All Before Me': James Herring, Village Schoolmaster of 1810," in *New Jersey Historical Society Proceedings*, January 1954, pp. 9-25, port.

⁵⁷ G.M. Waller, "Samuel Vetch and the Glorious Enterprize," in our *Quarterly*, April 1950, pp. 101-123, illus.

⁵⁸ R.W.G. Vail, "A Revolutionary Spy Reports to His General," in our *Quarterly*, January 1949, pp. 21-23, illus.

⁵⁹ Roberta Leighton, ed., "Meyronnet de Saint-Marc's Journal of the Operations of the French Army under D'Estaing at the Siege of Savannah, September 1779," in our *Quarterly*, July 1952, pp. 255-287, illus.

⁶⁰ R.W.G. Vail, "The Loyalist Declaration of Dependence of November 28, 1776," in our *Quarterly*, April 1947, pp. 68-71, illus.

⁶¹ Fenwick Beekman, M.D., "The Origin of Bellevue Hospital," in our *Quarterly*, July 1953, pp. 205-227, illus.

THE SOCIETY REACHES MATURITY

- Alice Curtis Desmond, "General Tom Thumb's Widow: The Autobiography of the Countess M. Lavinia Magri," in our *Quarterly*, July 1954, pp. 311-324, illus.
- ⁶ R.W.G. Vail, "Unknown Views of Old New York: The William Burgis View of Fort George, circa 1730-1731," in our *Quarterly*, January 1950, pp. 13-17, illus.
- ⁷ R.W.G. Vail, "Sir William Johnson's Indian Testimonial," in our *Quarterly*, October 1946, pp. 209-214, illus.
- ⁸ "President Zabriskie's Communication," in our *Quarterly*, April 1940, pp. 39-43, illus.
- ⁹ George C. Groce, "John Wollaston's Portrait of Thomas Appleford, Dated 1766," in our *Quarterly*, October 1946, pp. 261-268, illus.
- ¹⁰ Helen Burr Smith, "John Mare (1739-c.1795): New York Portrait Painter . . .," in our *Quarterly*, October 1951, pp. 355-399, illus.; *NYHS Annual Report for the year 1953*, p. 82, repro.
- ¹¹ R.W.G. Vail, "The Last Meeting of the Giants," in our *Quarterly*, April 1948, pp. 69-77, repro. with key.
- ¹² R.W.G. Vail, "Santa Claus Visits the Hudson" and "An Encore for Santa Claus," in our *Quarterly*, October 1951, pp. 337-343, illus., frontis. in color; October 1953, pp. 327-330, illus.
- ¹³ Wayne Andrews, "The Baroness Was Never Bored," and William N. Fenton, "The Hyde de Neuville Portraits of New York Savages in 1807-1808," in our *Quarterly*, April 1954, pp. 105-137, illus.
- ¹⁴ R.W.G. Vail, "The First Artist of the Oregon Trail," in our *Quarterly*, January 1950, pp. 25-30, repro.
- ¹⁵ Richard J. Koke, "Forcing the Hudson River Passage, October 9, 1776," in our *Quarterly*, October 1952, pp. 459-466, illus.
- ¹⁶ Donald A. Shelley, "George Harvey and His Atmospheric Landscapes of North America," in our *Quarterly*, April 1948, pp. 104-113, illus.; Grace Miller Carlock, "William Rickarby Miller," and Donald A. Shelley, "Addendum: William R. Miller," in our *Quarterly*, October 1947, pp. 199-211, illus.
- ¹⁷ See *Annual Report for 1952*, pp. 17-22, illus.
- ¹⁸ R.W.G. Vail, "Storied Windows Richly Dight" and "More Storied Windows," in our *Quarterly*, April 1952, pp. 149-159, illus.; January 1953, pp. 55-58, illus.
- ¹⁹ *A Sketch of the Life of John Ramage, Miniature Painter*, by John Hill Morgan (The Society: 1930), vi, 55 pp., illus., 8vo.
- ²⁰ Carolyn Scoon, "Cornelia Duyckinck's Birthday Spoon," in our *Quarterly*, October 1950, pp. 315-317, illus.; *The Prentis Collection*, by Joseph Downs and John Marshall Phillips, 1951, pp. 29-32.
- ²¹ Charles E. Baker, "The William Starling Powder Horn and the Niagara Campaign of 1759," in our *Quarterly*, April 1948, pp. 89-103, illus.
- ²² *Annual Report for 1951*, pp. 15-17, illus.

ERRATUM

On page 267 the title of Chevalier Charles F. de Loosey is incorrectly given as Mexican Consul General in New York. Although he acted as the unofficial representative of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, since Mexico had no official representative in New York at that time, de Loosey's correct title was Austrian Consul General in New York.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS AND AMERICAN ART-UNION, 1816-1852. By Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, with a history of the American Academy by Theodore Sizer [and of the American Art-Union by Charles E. Baker] and a foreword by James Thomas Flexner. (New York: The New-York Historical Society, 1953. Vol. I, INTRODUCTION, xv+311 pages, illus.; Vol. II, EXHIBITION RECORD, vi+504 pages, frontis., index. 2 vols., \$7.50.)

Reviewed by DR. GEORGE C. GROCE, author of numerous articles and monographs on American art history and chief architect of the Society's Dictionary of Artists in America 1564-1860, now being edited by Mr. Wallace, our Assistant Editor.

Here is a book for the centuries. Each generation, of course, writes history for itself. But there is a small number of books in each area of knowledge from which, in part at least, these histories are derived and upon which they are based. So far as I am aware, Miss Cowdrey, now Assistant Director of the Smith College Art Museum, is the only person who has given us two such books in this specialized field. The first of these, the *National Academy of Design Exhibition Record (1826-1860)*, was published by the Society in 1943. For more than a decade it has retained its primacy as a fundamental reference work in this field.

The book just mentioned as well as the one being reviewed had a common ancestor in the compilations of the English scholar, Algernon Graves (1845-1922), particularly his monumental eight volumes in which are catalogued the exhibitions of the Royal Academy of Arts. In general, the form and substance of Miss Cowdrey's entries are patterned on those used by Graves. It should be noted that each succeeding volume of Graves' work was received by English reviewers with high and enlightened acclaim. Miss Cowdrey's volumes merit the same cordial reception.

The first volume of the *American Academy of Fine Arts and American Art-Union* stands in sharp contrast to the English scholar's work, in that there is little introductory matter in Graves' compilations. Here, the introduction is a volume in itself. In a brief foreword, Mr. James Thomas Flexner, the art historian, places the work in its historical, philosophical, and bibliographical setting.

Professor Theodore Sizer's superbly documented discussion of the American Academy, based in no small degree on the Academy's manuscript minutes at the Society, but in an even larger measure upon the years of investigation and mature wisdom which he has invested in the Academy's president (Col. John Trumbull), seems more than likely to become the definitive history of that institution.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

It is fascinating to watch what appears to this reviewer to have been the only institution of national stature which had as a fundamental purpose the fostering of American art and nurturing it among the people of our country. Mr. Charles E. Baker, Editor of the Society, relates the epic of the American Art-Union with telling skill, revealing virtually all we might need to know of this ill-starred institution except the circumstances surrounding its death. The latter are given in detail by Professor Maurice Bloch in "The American Art Union's Downfall" which appeared in the October 1953 issue of the Society's *Quarterly* (Vol. XXVII, pp. 331-359. illus.).

In the introduction appears a fifty-page critical bibliography by Miss Cowdrey of the Art-Union's publications, based mainly on the Society's collections. Happily, her work contains a list of works of art published by the Art-Union or distributed by it. Many of these illustrations are effectively reproduced in the book. Mr. Malcolm Stearns of Wesleyan University tabulates the results of three sales held by the Union in December 1852.

The second volume is the *Exhibition Record* of both the American Academy and the Art-Union. A specimen entry for the American Academy and one for the American Art-Union follow:

ANDERSON, Alexander, M.D. (1775-1870)

1816 American Academy of Fine Arts

Member of the Academy, 1817-1825.

Address: Reed Street, New York.

207. Engravings on Wood for Collins's family Bible.

BEARD, William Holbrook (1824-1900)

1847 American Art Union

Address: New York.

96. A Loving Couple. To S.J. Godwin, Waterville, N.Y.

Both entries are somewhat abbreviated, but they do show the form used by Miss Cowdrey. Furthermore, whenever they are available, descriptions, accompanying quotations, dimensions and prices are given. Variations from the exact letter of the text of the original publications are explained and documented as in the case of William Bayley, for example. In this substantial tome, Miss Cowdrey must have catalogued 6,000 items.

The book will serve a wide variety of persons and purposes. The student who would understand American taste during these decades will find rich ore in these pages. The list is a *sine qua non* for any student compiling a list of paintings by any of the participating artists. Owners or investigators into the provenance of any of the works of art of the time may well find an item in point in Miss Cowdrey's revealing pages.

To biographers of individual artists Miss Cowdrey's work contains many a nugget. Glance, for example, at such a minor artist as Ambrose Andrews (active 1829-1859). The record shows that in 1847 and 1848

he was in New York City and also in the latter year he exhibited a view of Ticonderoga and also a landscape view near Quebec. In 1849 he exhibited more Canadian scenery, including a view near Montreal. He received a total of \$60.00 in 1852 for two landscapes, one in Connecticut and one in Vermont. Landscapes of New England were numerous during the period, but Andrews was one of the very few who painted Canadian landscapes and sold them to the people of the United States.

Miss Cowdrey's index of 76 pages not only includes the names of artists, owners, and lenders but also names of sitters for portraits, titles of other works, geographic locations, and even separate lists of engravers and sculptors. The range of geographic interest barely reached across the Mississippi, for the index lists not a single landscape with *locale* in Oregon, California, or Texas—all three of which were much in the news during the period. But landscapes of England, France, and especially Italy and even Switzerland were frequently shown. The index is a most informative and interesting adjunct which should meet precisely the requirements of even the most exacting searchers.

To conclude: Had it not been for Miss Cowdrey's compilation, we might never have had satisfactory histories of both the American Academy and the Art-Union. Her *Exhibition Record* of these two institutions, like her previous work on the National Academy, will continue to be a fundamental work of reference for every close student of the field as long as print clings to paper. Fortunately, the print is good and the paper stock is durable.

THE FIRST SARATOGA, BEING THE SAGA OF JOHN YOUNG AND HIS SLOOP-OF-WAR. By William Bell Clark. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 1953. xi+199 pages, biblio., index. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by IRVING S. OLDS, *collector of naval Americana and author of Bits and Pieces of American History* (reviewed in this Quarterly, January 1953, pp. 81-83).

"Saga" in the title of this new book implies an heroic tale. And heroic proved to be the career of the American sloop-of-war *Saratoga* and her gallant commander, John Young, during that ship's brief life of less than two years.

William Bell Clark has written an easily readable and thoroughly interesting account of the exploits of one of the early units of the infant United States Navy, a small vessel launched at Philadelphia in April 1780. It is a book which should be of interest to a wide public—in fact, to the countless multitude to whom exciting deeds at sea have a strong appeal.

Those fascinated by maritime history can be grateful that the author of this fully documented work forsook the advertising profession a few

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

ars ago to devote his scholarly talents to presenting in authentic and formative fashion the little-known adventures of naval ships and theirrepid commanders during the early days of the American Navy.

This book of one hundred and fifty pages (followed by elaborate notes and supplementary data, and a complete index) deals with John Young's command of the first vessel in the United States Navy to be called the *Saratoga*. This formidable little sloop-of-war, designed by its master builder Joshua Humphreys, participated in the Revolutionary War only to the extent of three short raiding cruises, in which about a dozen British merchant vessels were captured. After this brilliant beginning, the *Saratoga* disappeared completely from sight with all on board. The lost ship's company included Midshipman John Lawrence Livingston, the son of William Livingston, Governor of New Jersey, who devoted most of his remaining days to a fruitless search to learn the fate of his beloved son.

Mr. Clark has made a noteworthy addition to his excellent earlier historical writings.

HORACE GREELEY: NINETEENTH-CENTURY CRUSADER. By Glyndon G. Van Deusen. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. 445 pages, including annotated biblio., illus., and index. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by DR. CHARLES A. JOHNSON, formerly on the faculty of the University of Maryland, now Headquarters Historian, Air Research and Development Command, Baltimore, Md. His *The Frontier Camp Meeting, Methodist Harvest Time, is scheduled for publication this year by Southern Methodist University Press.*

Thomas Carlyle once declared: "Great is Journalism. Is not every editor a ruler of the world, being a persuader of it?" To the readers of this sprightly biography of eccentric Horace Greeley, the truthfulness of Carlyle's statement will be readily apparent. Greeley, founder of the first American newspaper to influence a nationwide audience, intellectual wanderer, champion of reform, sententious partisan editor, practical politician, and warm-hearted idealist, has found an able biographer in Professor Van Deusen. The many-faceted editor is incisively presented here with warmth, understanding, and admirable objectivity. The traditional picture of Greeley remains, but the author convincingly shows him as both a product and a molding force of an age of reform and every political controversy.

Professor Van Deusen, having earlier written on Henry Clay and Thurlow Weed, was well-qualified to tackle this task. Here historical writing has been raised to the level of a literary art. As a consequence, this Albert J. Beveridge Prize-winning study of Greeley, the fourth of its kind to appear in the last seven years, should remain definitive for a long time to come.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Passing over lightly Greeley's innovations in journalism, the author chose to center attention upon the editorial crusades, political machinations, and indefatigable office-seeking of the Whig editor. The book thus serves as a practical education in American political party practices. From printer's apprentice to political hack-writer, to nationally prominent editor and publisher of the *New York Tribune*, and to Liberal Republican Party candidate for the presidency in 1872 was a long road for Greeley to travel. The author has ably compressed that journey.

The apparent paradox of the politically and economically conservative Greeley enthusiastically performing the role of humanitarian reformer is resolved by the biographer. While he always exercised a "cautious approach toward social change" he stood squarely against the liquor habit, vice, graft, exploitation of the Indians, imprisonment for debt, and slavery. Distrusting the "blind masses" who so easily lent themselves to boss rule, Greeley urged improvements in public education. As Van Deusen explains it, Greeley's warm human sympathies, his moral fervor, and his "budding nationalism" all combined to drive him toward improving man's general welfare. He had an intense pride in his expanding America, its political institutions and traditions of human dignity. Here opportunity beckoned to man, and consequently there was no need for drastic social or economic change as in "king-ridden" Europe.

At turns "sagacious and childish," Greeley had but limited success as a crusader, and his life ended on a tragic note. Nevertheless, for over three decades Horace Greeley's editorial gifts were often fearlessly employed in behalf of many great causes. He was indisputably a giant in a day of Great Editors.

A COMMONER'S JUDGE: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLES PATRICK DALY. By Harold Earl Hammond. (Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, 1954. 456 pages, biblio., index, frontis. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by ROSALIE FELLOWS BAILEY, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, whose study of our 19th-century courts, particularly for her Guide to Genealogical and Biographical Sources for New York City, 1783-1855 (reviewed herein, October 1954, pp. 520-21), gives her an exceptional knowledge of the judicial records of the city.

This book, more in the nature of chronological annals than interpretive biography, is a good pioneer effort to rescue from oblivion a prominent 19th-century New Yorker who deserves to be remembered. While one cannot truthfully say that Daly comes to life in these dryly written pages, the author has patiently plowed through a mass of minutiae to make readily accessible the day-by-day conversations and happenings and public reactions that will be of immense aid to a future biographer. However, we find here less interpretation of the man and his period than

expects from a biographer or historian and—more's the pity—less on the subject of this book deserves.

Charles Patrick Daly was born of poor Irish immigrants in the New York City of 1816, and he died there in 1899, much revered as the leading judge for many years, scrupulously just and fearlessly high-principled, ignored in the city's social and professional circles and in international geographic circles. He was ever the warmhearted advocate of minorities—the Irish, the German, and especially the Jewish-Americans. And he was ever on the side of law and order except when he broke with his stepmother at the age of thirteen. While still a cabinetmaker's apprentice, Daly's personality and forensic skill in a neighborhood literary society were so impressive that a lawyer-member offered to pay his tuition if he would attend law school. This offer and the rejection of it were typical of Daly's opportunities and self-reliance. The career thus suggested was pursued by nightly study and clerkship in a law office, and he was made a junior partner at 22 years of age. Daly became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1844, at the age of 28, and he served on its bench continuously for over 41 years, mostly as First Judge and Chief Judge. Politics had competed for his youthful interests and he became an energetic member of Tammany, a speaker at political rallies, and a member of the State Assembly for a year. A life-long Democrat, he modified his allegiance only for high principles: the threat to the Union causing him to back Abraham Lincoln and corruption in City politics to oppose the Tweed Ring. A self-taught, self-made man in the best sense of the term, he nevertheless found time to pursue interests in many fields. There was scarcely a civic cause in which he was not active; but perhaps his greatest interests were in the historical development of any subject that took his notice inside or outside his legal career, and in geographic exploration. He was President for many years of the American Geographical Society, promoting polar explorations and the development (with the King of Belgium) of the African Congo. Natural gregariousness and these many interests led to an active social life and wide acquaintance-ship, and to his being the city's unofficial host and orator.

The Court of Common Pleas over which he presided apparently had a wider impact than any other New York City or County Court. Created in 1686 and abolished in 1895, it had by Daly's time the power to impeach municipal and minor judicial officers and was actually convened for that purpose under Judge Daly during the breakup of the Tweed Ring. It dealt to a great extent with lunacy, mechanics' liens, and insolvent assignments; it was the court for contested wills before a jury and had equity jurisdiction coequal with the Supreme Court's. Its appellate powers, within the fields of its competence, were more varied than those of any New York State court except the Court of Appeals and, according to Alden Chester, it determined the law (except on certain specified matters) so far as the lower courts were concerned.

As Allan Nevins, in his able Introduction, says: "To be head of the municipal courts of a great metropolis is to occupy a position which makes peculiar demands on its holder . . . Such a magistrate needs, even more than legal knowledge, broad human sympathies, a keen understanding of human nature, a quick eye for shams, and an ability to enlist expert advice in the social field . . . It was because he possessed these qualifications, salted by Irish humor, that Judge Daly gained distinction. He held his position at a time when the standards of the New York bench and bar were by no means as high as they should have been . . . It was the period when Fernando Wood, Tweed and John Kelly misgoverned the city. But in that gloomy era the atmosphere of Daly's courtroom was always pure and bracing."

Such a career as Daly's does indeed merit a broadly visioned "Life and Times"—but one conceived from a better vantage ground than (as this one mainly is) the limited perspective of the subject and his wife. Drawn for the most part from the Judge's own papers and the diary of his spouse, the result is too narrowly an organized abstract (frequently presented as conversation) of what was said or written to and by those two estimable people. Moreover, there is little evidence that the author critically tested their self-concerned statements. True, he gives us 34 pages of concise citations (miscalled "Footnotes," since they appear at the back of the book); but something like 80 percent of the references are to specific items in the 55 boxes of letters and papers and 21 scrapbooks of newspaper and magazine clippings of Charles P. Daly himself (at The New York Public Library) and to specific entries in the diary of his wife (in the author's possession). The next largest group of references is to items in newspapers (such as accounts of or editorial comments upon Daly's speeches and judicial decisions). The remainder consists mostly of published secondary accounts. Diaries and reminiscences of contemporaries are not used; Federal and State records (other than laws) are overlooked, though City records fare a bit better; and in view of the subject there are surprisingly few law citations or references to the 23 volumes of Reports of Daly's court tenure, 1849-1885 (at the library of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York). The nature of these references points up both the value and the deficiency of the book.

As an example: The chapter on "The Dalys in Wartime" is based almost exclusively on Mrs. Daly's diary. Hers is the only source cited for the statement that Lincoln called a special Cabinet meeting in order to hear her husband's views on privateering—then such a ticklish problem with Great Britain that the reader could rightly expect some independent confirmation of Daly's participation in the Cabinet's deliberations. (The *New York Times* of December 19, 1861, reported a Cabinet meeting on the problem, but not who attended it.) The author's method, on the other hand, brings to light privately expressed views of some of the

my prominent people with whom the Dalys had contact which might otherwise be unavailable to future students.

The legal portions of the book seem the weakest, which is unfortunate in view of the often far-reaching influence of Judge Daly's decisions. It is his importance as a judge and the thorough scholarship of his decisions (attested in legal cases even today, in part for their historical development and ultimate sources) that produce a need for a biography, heretofore lacking. Yet the reader is left with an impression that Daly did everything as a judge. The author does devote a chapter to the Astor Place Riots of 1849, which the publisher's announcement rightly compares with the recent Communists Trial of 1949 both in intrinsic importance to the nation and in the high character of the judge. But even in his infrequent analyses of Daly's opinions, the author sometimes leaves misleading impressions of them. For instance, regarding John Snook's petition to legalize his change of name to "Pike," the author seems to sum up Daly's whole opinion in the sentence, "No resort to legal machinery was necessary" (pp. 136-138), whereas the Judge went on to *refuse* the application on the grounds that Snook had failed to prove "pecuniary benefit" required by the law (New York, 1847, chapter 464). The author says this case was of historical significance but does not say why. It is this reviewer's guess that Daly's decision, made in 1859, caused next year's legislative action which broadened the basis for a legal change of name, "If the court . . . shall be satisfied . . . that there is no reasonable objection" (Laws of 1860, Chapter 80).

Unfortunately, the book contains too many errors of historical fact. It asserts, for instance, that in 1832 New York City experienced frequent epidemics, not only of cholera (which did strike the city with terrible consequences in that year), but also of typhoid and yellow fever, whereas the City's official reports show that the last yellow fever deaths had occurred during the 1822 epidemic and even then were far less numerous than during the violent scourges back in 1795-1805. Less excusable in a book about judges is the author's error (p. 399) in miscalling our famous Chancellor James Kent, who has been dubbed the Blackstone of New York law, by the name of the Chancellor's son William. Again a paragraph concerning Daly's May 1864 speech, on "When was the Drama first Introduced in America?", surprisingly ends with a *non sequitur* of June 1865—an editor's request for a review of a "Life of Cicero." And as a final example, the author credits his hero (p. 112) with having been president of The New-York Historical Society—an honor the Judge may have deserved but certainly never attained.

A complete bibliography of Charles P. Daly's printed and manuscript writings would have been useful to scholars, especially as most items are rare. This book's Bibliography does list some works by him scattered under its several headings: Manuscripts and Documents, Newspaper and

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Magazine Clippings, Books, Pamphlets. Not there, however, is a paper mentioned in the text (p. 181) as published in a pamphlet by the American Institute, or many of his published works listed in the text (p. 352) as taken from the *Times* account, or some other items listed in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. The text (pp. 43-44) states that Daly "was busily at work on a number of judicial histories, intent on establishing a reputation as foremost historian of the New York courts," but the Bibliography lists only one (*Common Pleas*). This reviewer can add another: *Nature, Extent and History of the Jurisdiction of the Surrogates' Courts of the State of New York* (1863), and she wonders whether more exist. It would be useful to know, for Daly's histories are still of value.

Despite these critical comments, *A Commoner's Judge* fills a void, not only because its subject was an eminent New York jurist but also because his versatile activities throw light on other aspects of a period in which students are becoming increasingly interested. Thus, a single 25-page chapter ("Found—A Partner," covering the years 1851-1856) discusses a trip Daly took to Europe, his meeting with Von Humboldt, a journey to Cuba and printed articles thereon, his speculations in western land, his judicial activities, his election to the Philharmonic Society and to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, his role as an organizer of the Shakespeare Society, as an executive of the Emigrant Aid Society and as a member of The New-York Historical Society, and still has room for eight pages devoted to his courtship. Yes, despite its shortcomings, this book should be on reading lists for 19th-century New York City, in general libraries with good collections for this period, and in those law libraries interested in non-professional lives of judges.

SCARSDALE: FROM COLONIAL MANOR TO MODERN COMMUNITY. By Harry Hansen. (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1954. xii + 340 pages, illus., index. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by LOCKWOOD BARR of Pelham Manor, N. Y., author of *A Brief, But Most Complete & True Account of the Settlement of the Ancient Town of Pelham, as well as other books and many articles on the antiquities of Westchester County.*

The Village of Scarsdale is located in the heart of Westchester County, N. Y., on the Harlem Division of the New York Central Railroad—forty-five minutes from Grand Central Terminal. It is an unique community in many respects as this history of its birth, growth and evolution from a Colonial Manor to a commuters' village proves.

On March 21, 1701, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New York, in the name of William III, King of England, granted to Caleb Heathcote, Gentleman, a patent to the holdings he had acquired in Westchester County since his arrival from England in 1691/92. By this grant

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

erected "the Lordship and Manor of Scarsdale," the last of the six manors erected in Westchester by royal decree, the others being Fordham (1671), Pelham (1687) Phillipsburgh (1693), Morrisania (1697), Cortlandt (1697). The name Scarsdale was not the invention of some estate promoter, for Caleb Heathcote, the founder, came from Westerfield in the Hundred of Scarsdale, Derbyshire, England.

Heathcote's Manor of Scarsdale extended from Long Island Sound to the Bronx River on the northwest, to White Plains on the north and east, and was bounded by New Rochelle on the south. It embraced the present Scarsdale, Mamaroneck, Harrison, and North Castle, and was supposed to have included part of White Plains. At his death in 1721 Heathcote left no male heir. His administrators continued his method of operation for the next fifty years, *i. e.*, both selling tracts outright and leasing parcels for long terms to farmers who paid annual rents. At the close of the Revolution, Scarsdale, like the other Manors of Westchester, was made into a Town.

This history devotes its major space to the story of the transformation of this Colonial Manor of Scarsdale into the present Village of Scarsdale. A section is devoted to the American Revolution when the Manor was occupied by General Howe and his British Army before the Battle of White Plains. Other chapters tell of famous characters who resided in the town, among them the author James Fenimore Cooper. Still another chapter tells of Charles Butler and his great estate, "Fox Meadow." The coming of the railroad in the early 1850's made Scarsdale a commuting village.

One of the unique things about Scarsdale is the Town Club, an organization of residents, now numbering over 1100, who make the running of the Village their personal concern and business. The story of the accomplishments of the Town Club and its influence upon the political and community life generally is a repetition, with modern modifications, of the early New England Town Meeting. This chapter in this book might well be studied by every small city and town in this country.

The Woman's Club and the League of Women Voters have also exerted a powerful influence in helping shape the affairs of Scarsdale since World War I, soon after which the Woman's Club was organized. One of the most amazing parts of the story of the Woman's Club is the fact that the Club since November 1919, has been the editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper, *The Scarsdale Inquirer*. About to fold up because of financial problems, the newspaper was taken over by the Club and in the subsequent thirty years it has not only been a brilliant success as a publication devoted to the interests of the Village, but it has proven a profitable financial investment paying quite handsome dividends.

Included in this history will also be found detailed information regarding the public schools, the library, the churches, parks, playgrounds, and various other allied organizations, all of which are essential and have

their part in the complete picture of a self-contained Village. One thing to which citizens of Scarsdale point with pride is the part the Village played in reclaiming the valley of the Bronx River and building the Bronx River Parkway. It is an almost unbelievable story.

In the Foreword is told how the Town Club in 1950 voted to sponsor the writing and publication of this history to mark the 50th anniversary of the Club's founding. To write the book Harry Hansen, editor of the *World Almanac*, was retained. A native of Iowa, former war correspondent, literary editor of the *New York World* and *New York World Telegram*, book reviewer for *Harpers Magazine*, Mr. Hansen is the author of an earlier book on the history of Westchester County, *North of Manhattan*. In the present work he has had the cooperation of many officials and private citizens and the guidance of the Local History Committee. The manuscript has been reviewed by authorities with special knowledge in the fields covered.

This is a magnificent piece of reporting which goes into minute detail—this should please the antiquarian concerned with the story of Westchester—with special reference to Scarsdale. It should serve as a model for future historians of other small communities. In the years to come this history will serve principally as a reference work. It stands as an exception to the old adage that hard writing makes for easy reading. Doubtless it will be made a required study for pupils in the Scarsdale schools, and sections of it should be required reading for pupils in other Westchester schools.

WALAM OLUM OR RED SCORE: THE MIGRATION LEGEND OF THE LENNI LENAPE OR DELAWARE INDIANS. A new translation, interpreted by linguistic, historical, archaeological, ethnological, and physical anthropological studies. By Eli Lilly and others. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1954. xiv + 379 pages, frontis., index. \$15.00.)

Reviewed by DR. WILLIAM N. FENTON, *Director of the New York State Museum and Science Service, Albany. Dr. Fenton is the author of several monographs on American Indian subjects, particularly the Six Nations or Iroquois of New York and Canada.*

A number of years ago, Eli Lilly, the noted drug manufacturer of Indianapolis, gathered together a group of eager young scholars to assist him in prosecuting one of his hobbies. To make certain that he got the best advice and assistance possible, after the pattern of industrially supported research, he set up two fellowships at Yale, one in the study of Algonquian linguistics, and the other in the ethnography of the Eastern Woodlands. Moreover, he enabled a number of young archaeologists in museums and universities to complete substantial field projects and then he proceeded to assist all of these bright young people in their first teaching and research careers by subsidizing chairs in university departments

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

supporting research programs in university museums. Judged by subsequent literary production and by their present positions, he picked good people for they are a distinguished lot.

From the beginning Eli Lilly's passionate and persistent interest was to discover, if possible, the whereabouts of the Walam Olum or Red Painted Stone on which is depicted the migration legend of the Delaware Indians, and, if he could not discover its whereabouts, to reconstruct the circumstances of its history and prehistory with supporting evidence from linguistics, ethnology, archeology, physical anthropology, and history. The work under review is the report of a team which included Carl and Ernie Voegelin, Paul Weir, the historian, Glenn Black, the archeologist, and Georg K. Neumann, physical anthropologist. The volume is a companion piece to Eli Lilly's *Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana*, which appeared in 1937, and like its predecessor, is a handsome piece of book-making to be much coveted by collectors. Its end maps show the putative migration route of the Delaware Indians from Bering Strait to where mythology takes up the route at mid-Mississippi, and protohistory carries it up the Ohio and across the Alleghenies to the river of their name. And the companion map shows prehistoric cultures in Early, Middle, and Late Woodland periods in northeastern United States, which archeological activities can be compared with the tribes of history shown on the first map. Much of the text of Rafinesque's original manuscript is reproduced in facsimile, and there is a nice little vignette of Constantine S. Rafinesque, 1783-1840, from the miniature at Transylvania College in Kentucky.

Now Walam Olum is one of the most enticing riddles in American ethnology. It starts with Rafinesque who taught botany and natural history at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, from 1819 to 1825, runs down to the founding years of the Smithsonian Institution, is linked to such names as E. G. Squier, Brantz Mayer, the eminent bibliophile of Baltimore, and touches the lives of moderns: William A. Ritchie, New York State archeologist, James B. Griffin, now Director of the University Museum of Anthropology at Ann Arbor, the late Prof. Frank G. Peck, and to some extent, the writer. Some time in his botanical wanderings Rafinesque had come into possession of a set of pictographs either drawn on birch bark scroll, or carved on wooden sticks, with which the Delaware elders remembered their long trek eastward to the Atlantic seacoast. At the time he collected the Delawares were living in Ohio, but only shortly before they had moved ahead of the advancing frontier from near the City of Philadelphia; and it may be logically presumed that they retraced the footsteps of their ancestors. To the pictographs which have long since disappeared, (although E. G. Squier is supposed to have borrowed them when writing his famous *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, which was the first *Contribution to Knowledge* published by Smithsonian,) Rafinesque added a text in the original Delaware which he translated with the help of some bilingual person. This text was later

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

edited and published by Daniel Brinton, notable ethnologist of the 19th century, in Philadelphia, and the manuscript now reposes in the University Museum in that city.

Walam Olum proper is divided into five books of songs each made up of a varying number of verses and was presumably sung. Besides Rafinesque, who published his translation in 1836 in the *American Nation*, at least two other persons to the present time have published translations: E. G. Squier, and Daniel G. Brinton in *The Lenape and Their Legends* (1885). But the present volume publishes all of the pictographs as Rafinesque copied them, the Delaware words for the pictographs, their English meanings as translated by Rafinesque, and the historical appendix. Part II consists of five essays analyzing the Walam Olum. These are the work of Eli Lilly's team: a translation by C. F. Voegelin, interpretation of the pictographs by Eli Lilly, ethnological observations by Erminie Voegelin, the history of Walam Olum by Paul Weer, speculation on the chronology by Lilly himself, parallels for the Walam Olum by Erminie W. Voegelin, archeological considerations by Glenn A. Black, and the Walam Olum in light of physical anthropological data on the Lenape by Georg K. Neumann. Besides a pictograph concordance with bibliography by Eli Lilly, there are additional Walam Olum references compiled by Paul Weer. The work was completed some time ago, but it sparked much parallel research, some of which got published ahead of the present report. But were it not for Mr. Lilly and his persistent interests and heavy subsidy, the project would have lapsed and the present book would not have been born. In view of all this, how good is it?

Brinton's book is no longer available in print so it is worthwhile having another complete text. Moreover, the present translation brings together definitive translation and the results of a critical knowledge of comparative Algonquian languages. But there is a tendency among modern American linguists to ignore the work of older linguists so that the Rafinesque document has not been compared with contemporary sources and interpreted in the light of them also. And there is possibility that further use may be made of contemporary sources by recourse to the Delaware vocabularies in the Moravian archives in Pennsylvania.

I have little argument with the pictographic concordance and bibliography by Mr. Lilly himself since it takes into account most of the literature published up to that time. To the reviewer, much the most interesting section is Paul Weer's account of the manuscript and painted records which he failed to find. The speculations on the chronology of the Walam Olum and migration of the Lenape lie purely in the realm of the humanities and are not susceptible to scientific proof. What do bother me, however, are the parallels to the Delaware Walam Olum. A great deal more could have been contributed to our understanding of the problem had it been approached from inside Delaware culture rather than from the perspective of the time-worn thesis that tribes in an ethnographic province share many traits in common and the cultures are dis-

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

unishable one from the other by a few distinctive traits. Applying this thesis to the comparative study of pictographs in northeastern North America shows us that most of the Algonquian tribes and some of the Iroquois used them but tells us very little about the Walam Olum itself. I feel that my own experience with Iroquois mnemonic pictographs was not so productive. (*The Roll Call of the Iroquois Chiefs: A Study of a Mnemonic Cane from the Six Nations Reserve*, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 111, No. 15, 1950.) And finally, in archeological considerations Black has brought to bear all the critical acumen of the archeologist on historical materials and tells just what specifications are needed for locating historic sites. No site, however, meets his specifications. Somewhere along the line we missed the boat because there is a considerable historical literature on the Delaware tribes capped by some good modern ethnology by M. R. Harrington and F. G. Speck. It is a strange circumstance that aside from Anthony Wallace's *King of the Delawares: Teedyuscung 1700-1763*, the best account of Delaware life is a book for children by M. R. Harrington entitled *Dickon Among the Delawians*.

In short, Lilly and company have raised more questions than they have answered but that is probably just as it should be, and my own expression of disappointment does not honestly reflect the absorbed attention with which I read every word of their report.

MUEL F. B. MORSE AND AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC ART. By Oliver W. Larkin. (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown & Co., 1954. viii + 215 pages, illus., biblio., index. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by DAVID H. WALLACE, *our Assistant Editor, who is editing, in collaboration with Dr. George C. Groce, this Society's forthcoming Dictionary of Artists in America, 1564-1860.*

In this brief, interpretive life, written for The Library of American Biography series, Professor Larkin of Smith College has chosen to emphasize Morse's career as an artist rather than his better known achievements in science. This would please Morse, for Art was his first love whom he abandoned only after she had, as he felt, forsaken him.

When young Samuel F. B. Morse returned from Europe in 1815 to begin his artistic career, portrait painting was still the mainstay of the American artist. John Trumbull's earlier efforts to emulate West's success as a historical painter had met with little encouragement in America, while landscapes and genre paintings were still rare phenomena. Only the "speaking likeness" was sure of a patron. Morse came home from London red with patriotic enthusiasm to elevate the taste of his countrymen, to inspire them to noble thoughts and deeds through noble paintings. This he called democratic art, since it was intended to instruct and improve the public rather than titivate the sensibilities of the private patron.

As a missionary Morse was not a success. Equipped for the role neither

by temperament (he was too aristocratic) nor by training (he was too much under the influence of Neo-classicism), he never was able to reach the public whose standards of art and virtue he wished to elevate. People simply stayed away from the exhibitions of "Judgment of Jupiter" and his views of the interior of the House of Representatives and the Salon Carré of the Louvre. Grudgingly the artist was forced to support himself by the "lower art" of painting likenesses, some of which, surprisingly, were among the best of their time.

Thus deserted by his fickle mistress, Art, Morse turned his attention gradually to science and eventually gave up painting entirely to devote himself to the Invention with which his name has ever since been associated. That he did so with regret is evident from a number of wistful letters written even after he had become world-famous for his telegraph. The story of his later years, to which Larkin devotes half the book, is rather painful as Morse's suspicion of foreigners and his jealousy of fellow-scientists led him into one quarrel after another.

Despite Larkin's generally sympathetic portrayal of his subject as an idealist who wanted to serve humanity, the thorny surface of Morse's character makes him difficult to embrace with affection. One feels that he was important and interesting, but the author has not succeeded in making him appealing. When this is said, however, the fact remains that Morse was a significant figure in a crucial period of American art. In his career, more than in that of any other with the possible exception of Allston, appears the conflict between the European tradition and the slowly emerging popular taste of America. Morse did not create American democratic art, as one would gather from the title of this book, but he did help to create the atmosphere in which a distinctively American School could grow in the next generation. For reminding us of Morse's real service to the arts of his country Professor Larkin deserves our thanks.

PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECTURE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. Editor: Theo B. White; [compiled by] William P. Harbeson, David M. Robb, Charles E. Peterson, Robert C. Smith, George B. Tatum, John F. Harbeson, George B. Roberts. (Philadelphia: published for the Philadelphia Art Alliance by The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. 36 pages + 105 plates, list of architects, list of buildings. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by THEODORE BOLTON, *Librarian of The Century Association; author of books and magazine articles on American art. His most recent work, in collaboration with Mrs. Irwin F. Cortelyou, is Ezra Ames of Albany, just published by this Society.*

This volume is a handsomely illustrated catalogue of an exhibition held during May and June, 1953, at the galleries of the Philadelphia Art Alliance. The exhibition consisted of prints, drawings, and photographs of

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

at a committee of architects and architectural historians considered representative examples of architecture in Philadelphia constructed within a hundred year period. The chairman of the committee, Theo B. White, writes in his introduction that, although the volume is simply a catalogue of the best examples in the exhibition, nevertheless "because of the careful research of its several authors in a field but lightly explored, it assumes a unique significance in the literary history of American architecture. It becomes, I believe, a document of architectural and social importance of a century between the overwritten eighteenth and the conjectural writings of the twentieth."

Elaborating on the fact that the field has been but lightly explored, David M. Robb in his essay on "A Century of Architecture in Philadelphia" writes that: "The reasons for lack of earlier notice are much the same in Philadelphia as in other American cities. A distinguished tradition of style in the eighteenth century has almost entirely overshadowed the succeeding period both in general and scholarly discussions, with the result that only the early phase of nineteenth-century architecture has received much consideration. And even this, moreover, has been discussed more as the conclusion of that which preceded it than as a phenomenon in its own right."

Every style, indeed, has an interest in its own right, and is to be judged by its own standards; but the earlier critics of American architecture were imbued with classic standards not applicable to various other styles of architecture. In fact, as David M. Robb explains: "Variations from traditional practices that are now considered among the most inventive contributions to nineteenth-century style were formerly dismissed as aberrations, inconsequential if not actually inartistic." These variations from the classic standards include structures in the Greek, Gothic, Romanesque, Italian, Neo-Baroque, and Renaissance revival styles which constitute the setting for life in Philadelphia during the nineteenth century described in the essay, by William P. Harbeson, entitled "Yesteryear Our Town."

After the three essays there follow: an alphabetical list of architects, giving their dates; an index to the buildings reproduced; a catalogue presenting information about each of these buildings; and, at last, the group of 105 reproductions, most of them after photographs by John R. Wells who has carefully selected points of view which show the buildings to their best advantage. Half a dozen reproductions, not listed in the index, illustrate the essays. From these reproductions, printed on unglazed paper and beautifully clear, and from the accompanying text, one is able, for the first time in a single volume, to survey the history of architecture of Philadelphia during the nineteenth century.

The stylistic history of architecture in Philadelphia during the past century, which as elsewhere in the United States is the history of buildings designed in the revival styles, includes a mention of some notable

masterpieces. The style which first became the fashion at the beginning of the century was the Greek Revival; and among the early Philadelphia architects designing in this manner were: Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820); Robert Mills (1781-1855); Frederick Graff an engineer; William Strickland (1788-1854); John Haviland (1792-1852); and Thomas Ustick Walter (1805-1887).

One of the reproductions is after a print of the Bank of Pennsylvania, 1799-1801 (demolished 1865), a handsome structure with an Ionic portico at each end, and a flat dome surmounted by a cupola in the center. This bank, considered to be the earliest example of the Greek Revival, was designed by Latrobe, who wrote that it was "a pure specimen of Grecian simplicity." Two decades later another "pure specimen" of the style was designed by Strickland: the impressive Second Bank of the United States, 1819-1822, partly restored by the National Park Service as an historical monument.

While the Second Bank was in the process of construction, there were being erected on the banks of the Schuylkill River, several delightful little pavilions which, collectively, constitute the Fairmount Water Works, 1819-1822. They are all still standing. They were planned and constructed, according to the catalogue, by Frederick Graff, but, according to the historical survey, they were "probably after Robert Mills' designs."

Haviland's contributions to the style were: St. Andrew's (now St. George's) Church, 1822-1823, and what is now the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, 1824-1825. In contrast with these highly correct examples of Greek Revival architecture stands the highly original Philadelphia Exchange, 1832-1834, a masterpiece in marble designed by Strickland. The west front of the structure presents a Doric portico; the east end, a curved Corinthian colonnade topped with an adaptation of the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates. The result is a completely satisfying artistic ensemble.

Another example of the style, rated in the catalogue as: "One of the handsomest and costliest examples of the full Greek Revival in this country," is Founders' Hall, Girard College, 1833-1837, a monumental Corinthian work that started the architect Walter on his enormously successful career. He designed the dome and wings of the Capitol at Washington during 1855-1865; and during 1871-1881 assisted John McArthur, Jr., as architect of the Philadelphia City Hall. A belated example of the correct adaptation of Greek work is the impressive Ridgeway Branch of the Library Company, a structure in the Doric manner designed about 1876 by Addison Hutton.

Latrobe, Strickland, Haviland, and Walter, all better known for their work in the style of the Greek Revival, also made some designs in the Gothic manner. There are reproductions of Latrobe's Philadelphia Bank, 1807-1809, with its Gothic facade (demolished *c.* 1832); Strickland's

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

sonic Hall, 1809-1811 (burned 1819), and his St. Stephen's Church, 1812-1823, with its twin towers of gray stone; Haviland's castellated Eastern State Penitentiary, 1823-1829; and Walter's Moyamensing Prison, also castellated except for the Egyptian entrance to the Debtors' Wing, 1835.

The artistic masterpiece in the Gothic style is St. Mark's Church, on Cust Street, 1848-1851, designed by John Notman (1810-1865). He likewise designed the Church of Holy Trinity, 1857-1859, in the style of the Romanesque Revival; and collaborated in the design for the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, 1846-1864, which is called: "one of the grandest nineteenth-century statements in the vocabulary of the Italian Renaissance."

Such is but a brief review of some of the illustrations. Although it is possible, here, to continue the examination of the reproductions in detail, a few of the later architects whose work is reproduced should at least be mentioned to give an idea of the scope of the volume. There are reproductions after the work of Napoleon Lebrun (1821-1901); Frank Furness (1839-1912) whose work was admired by Louis Sullivan; George W. Hewitt (c. 1839-1916); James H. Windrim (1844-1919); and Wilson Eyre, Jr., (1858-1940).

Reflecting on this volume which Theo B. White considers to be a "document of architectural and social importance," one thinks of its general value as a history in the development of a taste for architecture which will familiarize the public as well as the special student with part of our artistic heritage. Not until the public is familiar with our architectural works of art will there develop a general interest in their preservation. There is probably not a State in the Union wherein some building of national artistic importance is not at present being demolished; and this deplorable process of destruction will continue unless there is a public as well as a special interest in national works of art sufficiently active to prevent their indiscriminate obliteration.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS. By Nathan Schachner. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1954. x + 564 pages, notes, biblio., index. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by DAVID LEE STERLING, *a teaching assistant and doctoral candidate in American history at New York University, whose special field is our Federal period; he is presently working on a biography of John Pintard, Founder of The New-York Historical Society.*

In the foreword to *The Founding Fathers*, Nathan Schachner states that no "modern" study of the Federalist era, "its panorama of men and events, its social, cultural, religious and political forces," has been written. But after reading his 564 pages, this reviewer is not aware that Mr. Schachner has diverged, in any significant measure, from the path which Claude G. Bowers took in *Jefferson and Hamilton. The Founding Fathers*, instead,

is a retelling of the story of the decade of the 1790's, and thereby invites inevitable comparisons. One soon notes that Nathan Schachner is not the literary historian that Bowers is. Though well-written, his narrative, disjointed by short essays (e. g., the Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic of 1793 and the activities of French *émigrés* in America), does not fully capture the color and vitality of the Federalist period. His introductions of major and minor figures—the irascible Matthew Lyon, the aristocratic Fisher Ames, the proud, self-pitying John Adams—are not the beautifully synthesized portraits that made *Jefferson and Hamilton* so memorable.

This is not to say, however, that Schachner's study is not worthy of perusal. *The Founding Fathers* may find its reason for being, if it needs one, in its refinement of many of the issues of the two Federalist administrations. Unlike Bowers, with his passionate Republican bias, Schachner looks at both sides of the coin and dispenses justice equitably to both Federalist and Jeffersonian. He delineates more closely the financial speculations of William Duer and his colleagues, and shows how the Sedition Act may be considered, in some ways, a liberalization of the English common law of libel. He makes clear the rather astonishing alliance between Hamilton and the British minister, George Hammond, which first compromised the diplomacy of Jefferson and then destroyed the bargaining power of John Jay. He demonstrates conclusively that the election of 1800, characterized as a "revolution" by Bowers, was rather a combination of political skulduggery and sectional rivalry.

It is on this last subject that Schachner allows sentiment to replace objectivity. A partisan biographer of the enigmatic and controversial Aaron Burr, he continues to adhere to an original assessment of that gentleman's character and activities. It is the author's estimate that the New York politician in the election of 1800 refused to stoop to horse-trading promises for the Presidency. *The Founding Fathers* is here already slightly obsolete for the recent third volume of Irving Brant's *Madison* presents new and damaging evidence that Burr was indeed intriguing to supercede Jefferson, and an article by Peter Paulson on the Tammany Society (*New York History*, January 1953), questions its traditionally reputed role in the New York City elections of 1800. Unfortunately Schachner could not have used the Brant work; unfortunately he did not use the Paulson article.

The final verdict, therefore, must be that a valiant attempt has not ended in a definitive history of the Federalist period. But in lieu of that utopian effort, *The Founding Fathers* still makes good reading.

ALEXANDRA GRISPENBERG'S *A Half Year in the New World*, MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES OF TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES (1888). Translated and edited by Ernest J. Moyné. (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1954. xv + 225 pages, frontis., index. \$4.00.)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

UNSEEN LIFE OF NEW YORK: AS A NATURALIST SEES IT. By William Beebe, illustrated by Donald T. Carlisle. (New York and Boston: Duell, Sloan & Pearce and Little, Brown & Co., 1953. xiii + 165 pages, illus. 200.)

Reviewed by DAVID H. WALLACE, *Assistant Editor.*

To the ordinary citizen the life of New York, seen or unseen, consists of the individual lives of some eight million human beings. To William Beebe, the famous naturalist, *homo sapiens* is only the most obvious of many creatures which have inhabited the metropolitan area and one of the most recent arrivals. In this charming book Dr. Beebe introduces New Yorkers to many of their neighbors who are "unseen" for various reasons. The mastodon, for instance, is "too old to be seen," for he died many thousands of years ago in a bog where the Harlem Ship Canal now runs. The amoeba is too small to be seen; the walking-stick insect, so well disguised; the English sparrow and the cockroach, too familiar; and the migrating birds, too high. In a lively and informal manner Dr. Beebe brings these fascinating Gothamites before our unobservant eyes. The book is disappointing in one respect, however. Dr. Beebe's New York includes the area within a radius of 100 miles of Manhattan Island, which allows him to draw upon the wilds of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Long Island, as well as the open ocean, taking him considerably beyond the sphere of the average New Yorker.

CATALOGUE OF THE HENRY HUDDLESTON ROGERS COLLECTION OF SHIP MODELS: UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY MUSEUM. (Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1954. 116 pages, illus. Cloth: \$2.00. Paper: \$1.50.)

Reviewed by RICHARD J. KOKE, *Curator of the Museum.*

Here is a superb little booklet for all those who are interested in fine ship models, primarily of the ships of war which gave Britain her traditions and customs of service. The United States Naval Academy's "million dollar collection" of ship and small-boat models collected by the late Henry Huddleston Rogers (1879-1935), capitalist and railroad executive, once housed in his home at Southampton, L. I., and bequeathed to the academy at the time of his death, is most attractively presented in this profusely illustrated catalogue. The Rogers Collection consists of 108 scale models, for the most part of the sailing ship era. Here are included admiralty models, ships of the line, frigates, sloops, brigs, a revenue cutter, fireship, and galley, royal yachts, gigs, pulling barges, English and French East Indiamen, ships on the launching ways, "bone models" made of prisoners of war, clippers, and whaling ships. The two oldest models date from the time of Oliver Cromwell. The catalogue is of excellent format with fine photographs of entire vessels and details of hulls and riggings. For a naval enthusiast it is a "must."

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

DURING the first quarter of the year, besides providing its regular monthly lectures, its Sunday concerts, its Saturday-afternoon World Film Classics, Mr. Bilodeau's Friday lecture series on American Arts and Crafts, and the special exhibitions mentioned in our January issue, the Society entertained a number of guest organizations. The Bibliographical Society of America held its mid-winter meeting in our auditorium on January 28th; the Steamship Historical Society met here on January 29th; the New York Folklore Society on February 5th; the New York Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy on February 22d; the St. John's University class in "The Library and Contemporary Society" on February 25th; and the Society of American Historians on March 4th. On three successive Saturdays, March 12th, 19th, and 26th, the School Art League attended lectures in our auditorium; the first of these, on "Sports in American Art," was given by Mr. Arthur B. Carlson, our Curator of Maps and Prints. And on February 27th, Mr. Richard J. Koke, Curator of the Museum, addressed a meeting of the Kingsbridge Historical Society on "History Written with Pick and Shovel."

A calendar of coming lectures, programs, and exhibitions through July, when our building will close its doors for the month of August, follows:

April 5: Lecture for members and invited guests by Mr. John H. G. Pell on "The Bicentennial of Fort Ticonderoga." There will be a special exhibition on the same subject, to be continued through June 30th.

April 16-May 28: A series of seven movie programs on "Historic and Scenic U.S.A." will be given for the public in the auditorium on successive Saturdays at 2:00 P.M. The series will include film-visits to such historic sites as Irving's Sunnyside, Philipse Castle, Colonial Williamsburg, St. Augustine, Jamestown, Yorktown, historic Philadelphia, and famous mansions of upland Virginia, and to such scenic vacation-spots as the Yellowstone, Glacier, and Yosemite National Parks, the canyoned Colorado River, and even a Montana ghost town.

May 3: Lecture for members and invited guests by Mr. James Thomas Flexner on "Colonial Americans As Seen by Their Painters" in connection with two special exhibitions: "Colonial Portraits and Their English Prototypes" and "The Waldron Phoenix Belknap, Jr. Collection." These exhibitions will continue on view through July 17th.

May 18: A special exhibition on "Manhattan Elevated Railroads from Beginning to End, 1867-1955," marking the threatened discontinuance of the last operating elevated line on the island, will remain on view through July.

June 6: The annual Strawberry Festival for members and invited guests will be prefaced by an illustrated lecture by Mr. Rolland Wells Robbins on restorations of historical American sites.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

y 8-29: Four Friday-morning story-hours will be conducted in our garden at 10 A.M. under the auspices of the Children's Division of the New York Public Library. Children of members and their friends are invited.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

THREE oil paintings by Elihu Vedder (1836-1923). *Gift of The American Academy of Arts and Letters.*

Oppliqué quilt in lobster pattern made by the donor's mother. *Gift of Mrs. Ira L. Berry.*

Tag made by the donor's mother, which was hung from her house in West 38th Street for Lincoln's funeral. *Gift of Miss Miriam J. Buckhout.*

Photograph, 1876, of the Hartford Accident Insurance Company office, 155-157 Broadway, New York. *Gift of Mr. William King Covell.*

Five miniature trade cards of Volney Barstow Palmer, grandfather of the donor; *V. B. Palmer's Register and Spirit of the Press*, 1849-1851, and nine other periodicals published by him, 1851-1853; four newspapers, 1835-1848; and daguerreotypes of Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Palmer. *Gift of Mrs. Louise S. Cox.*

Two aquatints by W. J. Bennett after paintings by N. Calyo of the Great Fire of 1835 in New York City. *Gift of the City of Detroit Historical Commission.*

Library of General James G. Harbord on his return trip from the Philippines, 1906; also miscellaneous papers relating to the General. *Gift of the Estate of General James G. Harbord.*

Two photographs of the residence of Theodore A. Havemeyer, father of the donor, 244 Madison Avenue on southwest corner of 38th Street, in 1889, before renovation. *Gift of Henry O. Havemeyer, Esquire.*

Collection of match-book covers, in eleven volumes, gathered by the donor's brother, the late Harvey J. Hess. *Gift of Miss F. H. Hess.*

Three letters, 1776, of Henry Beekman Livingston to his brother Robert R. Livingston; one letter, 1799, of Robert R. Livingston to Henry Beekman Livingston. *Gift of Mrs. Robert L. Hollins, through the courtesy of Miss Angelica Livingston.*

Collection of 247 New York State newspapers, including 112 issues of the *New York Baptist Register* (Utica), 1838-1846, 35 issues of *The Kingston Argus*, 1861-1879, and 19 Albany newspapers, 1848-1887; and 43 issues of *The Philadelphia Saturday Courier*, 1838-1839. *Gift of Mr. Peretz W. Johnnes.*

Ten bound volumes of *The Journal of Commerce*, New York, January-

RECENT ACCESSIONS

- December 1945 and January–August 1946. *Gift of The Journal of Commerce.*
- Grant of land in Manhattan near Fresh Water in the Bowery to Cornelis Steenwyck and Oloff Stevens van Cortlandt, signed by Governor Richard Nicolls, 1666. *Gift of Mr. C. Otto von Kienbusch.*
- Thirteen letters, 1826–1831, from John Jacob Astor to Alderman Jacob B. Taylor, great-grandfather of the donor. *Gift of Mr. John T. Lequier.*
- Nine scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, menus and seating lists of ambassadorial dinners, English court life, and world events, gathered by the late Lady Lindsay (Elizabeth Sherman Hoyt, wife of the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Lindsay). *Gift of the Estate of Hon. Lady Lindsay, through Mrs. Bayard James.*
- Two wax portraits of George Ludwig Christian Scriba (1753–1836) by John Christian Rauschner (1760–c. 1811); pewter spoon made by William Ellsworth, working in New York 1767–1798; tin wind-up toy patented 1870. *Gift of Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy.*
- Model of the Madison Cottage which stood on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 23d Street, New York, made by the donor. *Gift of Mr. F. E. Ogden, Sr.*
- Two manuscript journals of Major Erkuries Beatty, 1784–1785 and 1785–1804. *Gift of Mr. Irving S. Olds.*
- Oil portrait of Daniel D. Tompkins (1774–1825), Governor of New York 1807–1817 and Vice-President of the United States 1817–1825, by John Wesley Jarvis, c. 1812. *Gift of Mr. Edmund Astley Prentis.*
- Collection of 10,000 manuscripts from the bequest of Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Jr., to St. Luke's Hospital, including: papers of Goldsbro' Banyar (1724–1815) relating to his offices as Deputy Secretary of the Province, 1746, Register of the Court of Chancery, 1752, and Judge of Probate, 1753, and also to his personal estate in Rhinebeck and Albany, with 60 letters of Sir William Johnson to Banyar; letter of George Washington, December 23, 1782, to Governor George Clinton; manuscripts of the Whire and Stuyvesant families; real estate papers and correspondence of Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant, Jr.; many manuscript maps and surveys of lands and real estate in or near Cooperstown, Belvidere Township, N.Y., Saratoga (1768), Poughkeepsie (1770), Hoboken (1817), and New York City, 1839, 1848, 1849, and 1859; and several political and business broadsides, 1836–1902. *Gift of St. Luke's Hospital, through Mr. Van R. Halsey, Secretary.*
- Collection of over 10,000 menus and related items, 1800–1952, gathered by the late Arnold Shircliffe (1880–1952), father of the donor. *Gift of Harold A. Shircliffe.*
- Seven dinner plates with views of early Synagogues made to commemorate the 300th anniversary of The Congregation Shearith Israel in the

RECENT ACCESSIONS

City of New York, 1654-1954. *Gift of The Sisterhood of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.*

re letters, 1844-1845, of Lewis H. Morgan to William Allen. *Gift of Dr. Charles L. Willmarth.*

llection of portraits, clippings, pamphlets, etc., relating to the Whitney, Staynor, and Thompson families. *Gift of Mr. Charles Lennox Wright, II.*

A GIFT OF RARE NEWSPAPERS

ON JANUARY 11, 1955, the Virginia State Library presented the following six copies of 18th-century newspapers to the Society: *The New-York Morning Post* of July 25 and 29, 1783; *The Royal American Gazette*, New York, August 7, 1783; *The Boston Gazette and The Country Journal*, February 11, 1788; and the *Philadelphia Aurora General Advertiser*, February 6 and 8, 1799.

We were happy to receive the three issues of out-of-town papers, particularly the two numbers of the *Philadelphia Aurora General Advertiser* which supplied gaps in our files, but our greatest delight was occasioned by the exceptionally rare copies of two New York City papers of 1783. The only other known copy of *The New-York Morning Post* of July 25, 1783, is owned by the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass.; and no other copy of the July 29th issue of this paper or of the August 7th issue of *The Royal American Gazette* is known. In thus helping to round out the Society's files of our early newspapers, this welcome gift constitutes an interesting addition to the available source material of this critical juncture in our history.

The New-York Morning Post was inaugurated by William Morton and Samuel Horner in April 1783 as a semi-weekly but was converted by Morton on February 23, 1785, into a daily—the first daily newspaper to appear in New York City. When Horner died, January 12, 1786, Morton became the sole publisher. The two issues which have just come to us reflect both the political thinking and the literary taste of the times.

The following quotation from the July 25th issue, three months after the preliminary treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain had been proclaimed and while the definitive treaty was being negotiated but four months prior to the British evacuation of the city, is revealing: "The American Rattle Snake ceases to hiss, and exults basking in the sunshine of success—the Gallic Cock struts and crows aloud—what pity the British Lion alone should sit sullenly devouring his own crows."

An advertisement in the same issue shows that the reading tastes of the public have apparently not changed much since 1783. In it, Messrs. Berry and Rodgers in Hanover Square offer for sale: "The Trial of Mrs. Eliza-

RECENT ACCESSIONS

beth Williams, in the Arches Court of Canterbury, At Doctors Commons, For Committing Adultery with Joseph Peyton, Esq.; . . . In which is given, the whole of the Depositions of the several Witnesses, fully describing the critical, amorous, and humorous Scenes in that unparalleled Trial." The journalistic lip-smacking over our present-day Jelke trials can hardly offer juicier morsels!

The last known issue of *The Royal American Gazette*, as recorded in Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers*, was the one for July 31, 1783, Vol. IX, No. 604. The present gift of August 7, 1783, now brings the last issue to No. 606 of that volume. The New-York Historical Society has the most extensive file of this paper extant. It was established by James Robertson on January 16, 1777, and was published during its first five years either by James or by his brother Alexander, both Tories. In 1782 the brothers formed a partnership with Nathaniel Mills and John Hicks. Throughout its career the *Gazette* remained distinctly a Tory sheet, praising the British army and belittling the "rebels." But now that those rebels had won the war and the red coats would soon be leaving the city, the *Gazette's* Tory publishers decided the time had come to face up to realities. In this, their final issue of August 7, 1783, they published, along with other news and a wide variety of advertisements, three items which dramatically reflect their altered situation:

The first of these was one of several news stories from various parts of the country. Copied from the *South Carolina Gazette* of July 15th and signed "A Patriot," it reads in part as follows: "We have accomplished a great and a noble Revolution: It has been done with dignity and humanity; and I hope, for the honour of the nation, no savage practices will prevail to the disgrace of both the people and the cause."

The second was a burlesque advertisement of a supposed auction in London of "The entire Stock in Trade of A Warlike Nation, Just left off business." Among the items to be auctioned off were: "One hundred and twenty thousand men, very little the worse for use. . . . Lot 2. Abuse against Mr. Burke . . . tending to prove that Mr. Burke is no great thing. . . ."

The third of these revealing items bears more than a casual relation to the preceding two and shows that the publishers were none too sanguine over A Patriot's hope that "no savage practices will prevail" upon the conclusion of peace. It was a notice of the termination of the partnership of the proprietors of *The Royal American Gazette* "who have determined to leave this city in a very short time." Already New York City was becoming none too pleasant for former Tories.

The Society is indeed most fortunate to be able, through the generosity of the Virginia State Library, to add these rare and valuable papers to its already extensive newspaper holdings.

LOUIS H. FOX
Acting Newspaper Librarian

BOOKS FOR SALE BY

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS AND LIBRARIANS ON ORDERS OF \$5.00 OR MORE)

- William Smith, *The History of the Late Province of New-York, from Its Discovery to the Appointment of Governor Colden, in 1762* (1830). 2 vols. totalling 780 pp., \$15.00.
- Thomas Jones, *History of New York during the Revolutionary War, and the Leading Events in the Other Colonies at That Period* (1879). 2 vols. totalling 1555 pp., illus., index, \$15.00.
- Alexander J. Wall, *A Sketch of the Life of Horatio Seymour 1810-1886, with a Detailed Account of His Administration as Governor of the State of New York during the War of 1861-1865* (1929). 111 pp., 25 illus., \$2.00.
- Margaret C. Barck, ed., *Diary of William Dunlap (1766-1839): The Memoirs of a Dramatist, Theatrical Manager, Printer, Critic, Novelist, and Historian* (1930). 3 vols., xxx+964 pp., 39 illus., index, \$12.00.
- Edith Susswein Gottesman, *The Arts and Crafts in New York 1726-1776* (1938). xviii+450 pp., index, \$3.00.
- Edith Susswein, *1777-1799* (1954). xix+484 pp., illus., index, \$4.00.
- Margaret C. Barck, ed., *Letters from John Pintard to His Daughter, Eliza Noel Pintard Davidson, 1816-1833* (1940-41). 4 vols. totalling 1386 pp., illus., index, \$12.00.
- Donald A. Shelley, *Catalogue of American Portraits in The New-York Historical Society* (1941). viii+374 pp., 430 illus., indexes, \$1.50.
- William Sawitzky, *Matthew Pratt, 1734-1805: A Study of His Work* (1942). x+103 pp., 43 plates, index, \$5.00.
- Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, *National Academy of Design Exhibition Record 1826-1860* (1943). 2 vols. totalling 680 pp., index, \$6.00.
- William B. Wall, *EntreNous: An Intimate Portrait of Alexander J. Wall* (1949). xii+267 pp., illus., index, \$3.00.
- Harold E. Dickson, *John Wesley Jarvis, American Painter, 1780-1840, With a Checklist of His Works* (1949). xx+476 pp., 105 illus., index, \$10.00.
- Calver & Bolton, *History Written with Pick and Shovel: Military Buttons, Belt-Plates, Badges, and Other Relics Excavated from Colonial, Revolutionary, and War of 1812 Camp Sites by the Field Exploration Committee of The New-York Historical Society* (1950). xiv+320 pp., 218 illus., index, \$3.50.
- Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, *American Academy of Fine Arts and American Art-Union 1816-1852, with a history of the Academy by Theodore Sizer, of the Art-Union by Charles E. Baker, and a Foreword by James Thomas Flexner* (1953). I: *Introduction*, xiv + 311 pp., illus.; II: *Exhibition Record*, 504 pp., frontis., index; 2 vols., \$7.50.
- R.W.G. Vail, *Knickerbocker Birthday: A Sesqui-Centennial History of The New-York Historical Society 1804-1954* (1954). xix+547 pp., 180 illus., index, \$6.00.
- Theodore Bolton and Irwin F. Cortelyou, *Ezra Ames of Albany: Portrait Painter, Craftsman, Royal Arch Mason, Banker, 1768-1836; And a Catalogue of His Works* (1955). xx+398 pp., 120 illus., index, \$4.95.

